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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 152 | MONDAY JUNE 28, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

POLL RESULTS

Are you confident of receiving your rebate/refund checks next month?:

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Somewhat	22
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Sunday, June 27, 2010

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Education Fair

Soldiers, families, veterans, high school seniors, and other members of the community gathered at the U.S. Army Reserve Center last Saturday for the U.S. Army Reserve Theater Support Group's first-ever Education Fair on Saipan.

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Common Ground

At odds over how to strengthen the global recovery, top world leaders found common ground on foreign policy Saturday, condemning North Korea for the alleged sinking of a South Korean warship and endorsing a five-year exit timetable for Afghanistan.

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New legislative task force to assess availability of pozzolan. PAGE 3

DUE TO POWER, SEWER, WATER, FINANCIAL SYSTEM WOES

Fitial renews CUC emergency declaration

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., citing the recent financial crisis in June that led the central government to reprogram millions of funds so it could pay CUC to buy fuel.

See CUC on Page 4

Senate recalls $5.25M loan bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives did not act Friday on the bill allowing the Marianas Public Land Trust to transfer $5.25 million to the general fund after the Senate communicated its plan of recalling the bill due to concerns raised by both MPLT and the Fitial administration.

» MPLT, Fitial admin wary about amended measure

The Senate and House will hold back-to-back special sessions today to try to iron out differences over the bill which the executive and legislative branches hope to help pay for government utility bills and payroll.

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PRAYERS FOR THE WAR DEAD

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, along with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, right, offer prayers for those who perished during World War II on Saipan during a memorial service hosted by the Korean Association of Saipan in Marpi on Saturday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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FSM leaders urge citizens not to abuse immigration privilege

CLARISSA DAVID

Federated States of Micronesia president Emanuel Mori answers a question during a meeting with the FSM community on Saipan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori advised its citizens residing in the CNMI to be mindful of their responsibilities as FSM citizens during a meeting Friday night at the Pedro P. Tenorop Multi-Purpose

See FSM on Page 4

Local

Live the Fiesta Way!
What's cooking this week at Chambre BAR
Healthy Menu
Main Course
MONDAY- Pork Stew
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WEDNESDAY - Sauteed Mixed Vegetable Salmon Fritata
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No suspension of $10 fee for use of lots along Liberation Day parade route

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources will not be suspending the first-ever imposition of a $10 fee for spectators who will set up tents on public lands along the Fourth of July parade route despite a request from a lawmaker to hold off on the fee implementation until next year.

Acting DLNR Secretary Joaquin B. Songsong said the department has started implementing the fee since early last week and has received good response from families who want to have a good view of the Liberation Day parade.

"We are not suspending it. It has gotten good response from the community. But I had a good discussion with Rep. Joe Palacios about how best we could implement the program," Songsong told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

He said the $10 temporary permit for use of public land is a very reasonable price, considering that in Guam, the fee is $50.

Songsong said the $10 fee is charged for every 20x20 plot on public land where residents can set up their tents along Beach Road to have the best view of the annual parade.

The parade will start at 10:30am on July 4.

Linda Crisostimo, acting director of DLNR's Division of Parks and Recreation, said there were 67 plots available.

"But of the 67 plots, only 23 are available for reservation. We already had the 44 slots reserved for the parade… Everybody wants to get a good spot and it's good that we're starting to charge fees so that putting up tents would be more organized, unlike before when residents would really fight over a spot. Now we would have officers checking the tents and their permits on July 3 and 4 to see whether they're on the right spot," Crisostimo said in a separate interview on Friday.

The last date to apply for a spot is July 2, 2010 at 4:30pm. Spots are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan) asked DLNR on Thursday for a one-year suspension on the imposition of the $10 fee, saying the fee is "unfair due to such short notice."

But DLNR, after meeting with Palacios, said there's no need to suspend the implementation of the fee which has been in the books for many years now.

Palacios, however, asked DLNR and DPL to come up with a list of things that are prohibited on camp sites, including open camp fire, loud music, and digging up holes in the sand along the beach for use as restroom.

Public Law 11-106 gives DLNR's Division of Parks and Recreation the authority to establish "user" fees for all public parks and beaches that it maintains, but the department has not done so until now.

Officers will be on hand on July 3 and 4 to ensure that only individuals who have a temporary permit are occupying space.

Public Lands Secretary Os-

See LOTS on Next Page

Club manager still missing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Today marks the third week of the mysterious disappearance of disco club manager Qi Run Li, but the search is still ongoing on his whereabouts.

Saipan Tribune called Li's family yesterday afternoon, but a certain Mr. Hong, a translator and friend of Li, said Li has not been located yet.

Hong said they have no information whether Li is still alive as they did not receive a call despite a $20,000 cash reward to anyone who could provide information.

Many sources in the Chinese community disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that Li recruited many people from China to come to Saipan prior to the effective date of the federalization law in November 2009.

Sources said between 40 to 50 were recruited on a promise that they would get "green card" when federal agencies take control of local immigration.

Each person paid Li Chinese money equivalent to $10,000, sources said.

When no "green card" was given, this angered many of those recruited people because they are here with no jobs, sources said.

"Chinese community is very small. We know what's going on, but no one likes to talk," one source said.

When asked about Li's alleged recruitment activity, Mr. Hong said he is not aware of it.

Police said Li's brother and sister, who are on Saipan, are offering the cash reward for information.

Li is the manager of King's Disco, which opened only last month.

The night club is located on the second floor of a three-story commercial building along Beach Road, Garapan. Li stayed on the ground floor, next to Rainbow Night Club.

Li was last seen driving his silver 2004 Toyota Corolla with license plate ADJ-932 on June 7 in the evening toward the vicinity of Gold's Gym in China Town.

Li's disappearance was reported to DPS the following morning.

Police learned that on June 7, at 7:30pm, Li received a call on his cell phone from a customer who requested for taxi service. The customer asked to be dropped off at Gold's Gym.

Li proceeded to Gold's Gym, but he was never seen again, police said.

Police found the car the following day, June 8, abandoned in the parking lot of a building formerly occupied by Shirley's Restaurant along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau.

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New legislative task force to assess availability of pozzolan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new legislative task force has been formed to assess the current availability of pozzolan in the volcanic island of Pagan and other trace minerals, hoping that an abundant amount still exists to help provide economic benefits to the cash-strapped CNMI.

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said there is a need to assess the availability of pozzolan on Pagan and trace minerals between Rota I and Rota II areas.

"The primary goals and objectives of the task force are to conduct a fact-finding mission as to the status of pozzolan and other natural resources in or within our Commonwealth. Reports of their findings should be submitted to the Committee when completed," Santos said in a June 22 letter to acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

Santos named six members to the task force.

They include House Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan), House Health and Welfare Committee chair Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, and legislative assistant Claire Sablan.

A pozzolan is a material commonly used as an addition to Portland cement concrete mixtures to increase the long-term strength and other material properties of Portland cement concrete, and in some cases reduce the material cost of concrete.

In 2007, a mining expert working for the Department of Public Land estimated that only about 12 million metric tons of pozzolan remain available on Pagan.

This estimate by DPL consultant John W. Wilson was much lower than previous estimates regarding the quantity of pozzolan on Pagan, which ranged between 32 million and 200 million metric tons.

The report took into account the loose nature of the pozzolan deposit, and the erosion that has taken place since the first measurements of volume were reported in the U.S. Geological Survey's 1984 report.

Laboratory tests confirmed that the quality of the pozzolan on Pagan meets the minimum requirements for natural pozzolan.

Santos, in an interview, said given the current economic situation, it's important that the CNMI looks at all available resources that can benefit the economy.

"But first, we have to know whether there's still pozzolan on Pagan that's why I formed this task force," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

In her letter to Ogumoro last week, Santos said the Department of Land and Natural Resources has expressed support and cooperation to the formation of the task force, including researching funding sources to shoulder the necessary costs for the task force.

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Korean groups honor WWII war dead

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas from Korea flew to Saipan to participate in a memorial service Saturday honoring Koreans and others who sacrificed their lives during the Battle of Saipan in 1944.

Organized by the Korean Association of Saipan, the event was held at the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi and marked the 33rd annual memorial service for all those who perished during World War II.

Kim Jae Hong, president of the Korean Association of Saipan, welcomed guests for the memorial service which included Hyun Soo, administrative director of the consulate agency of Korea in Guam, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Inos, who attended the ceremony on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acknowledged in his remarks the "shared feelings and aspirations" of the people of the CNMI and Korea as shown by the annual memorial service on Saipan.

Inos expressed hope that the partnership between the CNMI and Korea, which dates back to the time of the war, will continue for the years to come.

He encouraged everyone to "continue to pray for peace for every one of us" and expressed support for a "good and common cause."

In his message, Flores underscored the importance of paying tribute to the men and women who died during the war. "The establishment of the Korean War Memorial Monument reminds us never to forget those who have sacrificed so that we and future generations can continue to live in freedom and peace," he said.

Flores also said that the annual visit to Saipan of members of the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots "has undoubtedly brought our two cultures closely together in prayer and peace."

Flores remained positive that the CNMI and Korea will "continue to foster goodwill, peace and happiness."

After the delivery of speeches from community leaders, Kim led the guests in offering flowers and prayers.

LOTS

From Page 2

car M. Babauta said the Department of Public Lands' only role is to help DLNR collect the fees, and remit them later to DLNR which, in turn, would use it to maintain public parks and beaches.

Temporary permit applications are available at the As Perdido office of the Division of Parks and Recreation. The fee must be paid at the DPL office at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center, and the receipt brought back to the Division of Parks and Recreation Office in As Perdido, where a permit will be issued to the applicant.

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PSS fiscal office questions hiring of finance director

» Cites duplication of duty, higher salary offer as factors'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The fiscal and budget office of the CNMI Public School System questioned the hiring of a finance director at a time when PSS is receiving a meager budget from the local government and it still has a financial consultant onboard.

Last June 21, Richard Waldo was officially named as finance director of PSS, a vacant position since December 2007. However, PSS already has Ed Tenorio serving as financial consultant. Tenorio was hired for $60,000 in 2008 and his contract with PSS runs through December 2010.

The PSS fiscal and budget office initially wrote the Human Resource Office of PSS opposing the hiring of a finance director last June 15.

It was learned that the office did not certify the position but nonetheless it was announced and PSS eventually went ahead in hiring and selecting Waldo.

The fiscal and budget office disclosed that based on the memorandum of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan effective Feb. 16, 2010, a hiring freeze was put in place for all locally funded non-certified positions. The director of finance falls under this hiring freeze and therefore the position should be re-examined.

The same office cited the duplication of responsibilities of the finance director and the financial consultant.

Fiscal and budget officers stated in their memorandum to HRO that if the director of finance will be hired there will be duplicate responsibilities with the financial consultant. According to a memorandum dated November 2008, Tenorio's hiring was a result of not having a director of finance.

"In the absence of a financial director, PSS must obtain a professional consultant that will provide the critical consultation to the commissioner of education to ensure that compliance requirements are met as it relates to finance and budget both at the local, state, and federal levels and that the expenditure plans of PSS are consistent with the PSS vision, mission, and strategic priorities," the sole source justification for the consultant position stated.

The fiscal and budget officers have recommended further review of the two positions to determine what position should be eliminated in the best interest of PSS.

However, to date both positions are being filled costing PSS $125,000 in total salary cost.

The last factor cited by the fiscal and budget office was the unanticipated increase of the salary for finance director. It was disclosed that the budgeted salary for the director of finance is $60,000 however PSS had made the decision to pay Waldo $65,000 annual salary.

Due to the current financial situation of PSS, the fiscal office has requested that the salary be consistent with what was budgeted for the position.

'Potential misuse of funds'

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2008, PSS was advised by its legal counsel regarding the sole source contract of the financial consultant.

The legal office, in its memorandum in December 2008, admitted that it has reservations in signing the sole source contract for the financial consultant.

The legal office pointed out that in a sole source contract, there is only one source for the required service and the written determination must contain the unique capabilities required for the contract.

It said in the justification for the sole source contract one of the problems pointed out is the lack of funding at PSS. It also admitted that a foreseeable issue could be why is PSS spending money hiring a consultant when PSS is also going to hire a financial director.

"Potential to be seen as misuse of public funds," the legal counsel's memorandum dated December 2008 stated.

FSM

From Page 1

Center in Susupe.

Mori, who was joined in the meeting by Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, cautioned constituents in attendance not to abuse their immigration privilege even as the U.S. federal government extended its control of immigration to the CNMI in November 2009.

Formerly a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, FSM became a sovereign state on Nov. 3, 1986 under the Compact of Free Association with the United States.

Under the compact, citizens of FSM may live and work anywhere in the United States and its associated states using only their passports.

Simina, who had to leave the meeting early to catch his flight back to Guam, acknowledged that the compact is "by no means perfect" but its faults or deficiencies do not justify taking it for granted.

"Do remember that with those privileges, there are obligations. So I would like to ask all citizens of FSM to remember that," Simina said right before leaving the meeting, adding that the FSM citizens are smart enough to know these obligations.

For his part, Mori reiterated that FSM citizens must be conscientious when taking advantage of their privileges under the compact.

"If we abuse our privilege on immigration, it will be taken from us or it will be restricted," he warned.

Mori and members of his cabinet were on Saipan to participate in the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit from June 23 to 25 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Mori told *Saipan Tribune* after Friday's meeting that the summit was a "successful" event as officials of participating islands were updated with various issues affecting the Micronesian region.

According to Mori, the issues on military buildup, transportation, and communication were particularly significant topics that affect FSM.

The training being conducted as part of the impending buildup and the measures being taken to enhance the efficiency of transportation and communication between islands all contribute to the economic development of the region, he added.

Visiting Saipan for the first time since he became president, Mori disclosed that he used to live on Saipan in the early '70s. "That's why I love this place very much."

Mori also took the opportunity to meet with the FSM community to talk about issues and concerns that affect them on this trip.

The main topics that came up during the meeting were relating to passport, election, social security, and immigration matters.

Mori said the grant to improve their current system in processing passport applications and renewals has already been approved but documents are still being circulated for signatures.

There will be "sophisticated machines" that will reduce the process to 'a matter of a few days or even hours,' he said.

One man from the audience raised his concern about FSM citizens who have spouses that are nonresident workers in the CNMI. The man's wife is a Filipino citizen.

Mori and FSM Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert said they would have to know more about the situation before they can help. However, they emphasized that they can't do anything if it is outside their jurisdiction.

Mori also reminded the FSM community to vote on the initiatives that would be included in their March 2011 election.

One initiative proposes to allow dual citizenship among FSM citizens. Under their constitution, they are only allowed to have one citizenship.

Although the initiative would allow them to have dual citizenship once passed, Mori emphasized that the initiative will not allow them automatic dual citizenship. They would have to apply for it, he said.

The other initiative recommends changing the tenure of all elected officials to four years.

The current FSM congress has four members elected by proportional representation for a four-year term and 10 members elected for a two-year term. The FSM president is elected from among the four members serving a four-year term.

According to Mori, they spend about half a million dollars when they hold elections for members of the congress who hold two-year terms. He added that a two-year tenure does not allow elected officials to think about long-term policy and development.

Mori, who held a separate meeting with the Chuukese community on Saturday, also announced his candidacy and solicited the support of his fellow Chuukese to vote for him in 2011.

SENATE

From Page 1

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview on Saturday, said "there are still few glitches on the bill" and that the administration is not satisfied with the Senate version of House Bill 17-78, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 passed on Wednesday, as well as the language proposed by MPLT to the Senate on Friday.

"I saw the (MPLT) letter and I think we need to sit down before the session. If the governor is expected to sign the bill, it's important that the governor's input be sought and we do have concerns over the versions we have seen so far, but I think we can work it out," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at a Korean war memorial service in Marpi on Saturday morning.

But Inos said the administration does not have an issue with the Senate's additional $1.25 million request from MPLT for the needs of the Commonwealth Health Center and patients, so long as MPLT has additional funding for it.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, chairman of the MPLT Board of Trustees, told Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) that MPLT has identified areas of concern in the Senate's version of the bill that the House was supposed to act on during its session Friday.

Mendiola-Long suggested three major changes, including raising the anticipated shortfall from $200,000 to $350,000 for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt service.

MPLT transferred $3.4 million to CUC in 2008 to address the rolling power outages. Since then, MPLT has received interest income into the general fund for appropriations paid back.

Mendiola-Long's two other suggestions clarify the intent of the bill.

"MPLT would like to emphasize the importance of the authorization by the Legislature to withhold future distributions to the general fund. Without this language, the Marianas Public Land Trust will not be able to advance funds to our beneficiary. We strongly feel that if the above recommendations are incorporated into the final bill, MPLT can proceed forward expeditiously in processing the advance to our beneficiary," he told Manglona.

Acting Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), in an interview, said the Senate and MPLT will try to concerns on the Senate version of the bill, and this is the reason why the Senate is recalling the bill from the House.

The Senate, which passed the bill on Wednesday, said their version tries to stop the government from unilaterally confiscating the funds of MPLT by putting restrictions on the bill.

The Senate also raised the amount of the proposed MPLT loan to the government, from $4 million that the House proposed two Fridays ago to $5.25 million, in a form of an amendment.

The additional $1.25 million proposed by the Senate is for equipment and medicine needs at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The government had insufficient funds to pay most government wages on June 18. CDA remitted $1.9 million to the central government on Monday, allowing for the paychecks to be released that same day.

For future payrolls, the government is looking at other reprogrammed or identified funds, including those from MPLT, CDA, and Department of Public Lands, which it also tapped for CUC utility payments.

The Fitial administration asked MPLT, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Department of Public Lands to remit funds to the general fund to help cover CUC utility bills and payroll.

CUC

From Page 1

As of last week, the government was able to pay CUC $2 million more and is now current in its utility billings.

However, another $1 million in utility bills is due this week.

"Such financial conditions may continue unless the government, and other large CUC customers, can be brought current, and remain current, on their bills. This may present a challenge for CUC, given the stressed financial conditions of the Commonwealth," Fitial said in his 22-page executive order dated June 22.

The governor said a properly empowered executive director will be required to address this challenge.

The extended emergency declaration also cited the latest fine of $140,000 levied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency due to violations of stipulated orders.

Fitial also said two 0.9-megawatt Cummins power generator sets were brought from Power Plant 4 on Saipan to Rota to augment the power generation on Rota.

"These two generating sets should be commissioned by July 1, 2010," he added.

There have also been new wastewater and water challenges. For example, a substantial section of the As Terlaje sewer line collapsed, requiring an emergency procurement to hire an outside firm to make the repair.

Because of El Nino, CUC has also gone into an emergency mode, conserving water, accelerating water line replacements, and locating and repairing leaks.

For Capital Hill, the drought and a tank rehabilitation project required that the distribution system in this area be reconfigured in June 2010 in order to supply water at least two hours per day to Wireless Ridge.

Upper reaches of Navy Hill were without water for several days until leaks were repaired.

"Unfortunately, the leaks were noted several months before, but lack of manpower and funds prevented the pressurization required for leak repair," the governor said.

The governor also said that CUC's decades-old financial system accounting failed repeatedly during the last two months, including for a complete week.

"Already overcommitted finance and accounting staff were required to put in days of extra time in hand-recording customer payments and hand-generating bills," he said.

Fitial first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008.

Without the emergency declaration, CUC wouldn't be able to hire and maintain skilled foreign workers because current law prohibits the agency from employing non-U.S. citizen workers.

CUC has repeatedly asked the Legislature for relief from Public Law 16-14 which regulates the government workforce, to no avail. Moreover, errors in wording in the CUC enabling legislation recently re-enacted, P.L. 16-17, as amended, would bar the executive director from the day-to-day management of the corporation, effectively shutting CUC down.

CUC also needs to meet the requirements of stipulated orders between the CNMI and EPA, setting the requirements and deadlines for CUC to comply with the mandates of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Fund narrows down list for new investment consultant

The NMI Retirement Fund has narrowed down its list for a new investment consultant from eight to four candidates including its present consultant Merrill Lynch.

During last Thursday's special board meeting, the trustees entertained Morgan Stanley and Buck Consultants for final interview.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wilshire Associates also made it to the list, which is scheduled for board interview next month, along with Merrill Lynch.

Last week's board interview with the first two investment companies was conducted in executive session.

From the Top 4 candidates, two will be selected for the final review until the best firm is named.

The fiscal and investment committee of the board was tasked to conduct all screenings and evaluation of the candidates and is expected to come up with a recommendation for the board's action. The board is expected to name its new investment consultant by August this year.

The hiring of an investment consultant was prompted following disclosure by the board that Merrill Lynch wanted to increase its fees.

The Fund pays about $150,000 per year to Merrill Lynch. The figure is equivalent to what has been signed in the contract which provides 3.5 percent of every 1 percent of the Fund's investments.

The Fund hired Merrill Lynch in 2008 when its investment was worth around $300 million. For the last two years, the company collected $300,000 for its services.

It was revealed that the highest service payment received by the consultant was probably in 2007 when investment reached $400 million. The company has been serving as consultant for the Fund trustees since 1998 when it started collecting minimal amount from the then $70-million investment fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that the company proposed an increase of service fee to five percent of one percent. Monetary value for the proposed rate is about $180,000 yearly.

The re-hiring of Merrill Lynch would depend on the "new proposal" it would submit to the board, according to the Fund officials.

Merrill Lynch's contract with the Fund has no expiration date. The Fund, however, is allowed to review the contract every two years. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Tinian DPW staff arrested for beating up daughter and reckless driving

Police arrested on Tinian last Friday an employee of the Department of Public Works who allegedly beat up his daughter, chased her with machete, and recklessly drove a DPW vehicle.

Rufino Masga Mendiola, 54, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and misuse of government vehicle.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed a $15,000 cash bail for Mendiola's temporary release.

Tinian Department of Public Safety's Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that the victim's left cheek bone was swollen and she complained of pain in the back of head.

Arend said investigation showed that in the evening of June 18, Mendiola and his daughter had an argument after she confronted him for sexually harassing her friend.

The defendant got mad, beat up the daughter and hit her head with a cellphone.

As the daughter left the house, Mendiola, who was drunk, chased her with a machete.

One Milton B. Cruz took the machete away from the defendant and threw it to the side of the road.

While police officers were investigating the incident, they saw Mendiola recklessly driving a DPW truck.

Police then followed Mendiola to DPW building and arrested him. Officers noticed a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on the defendant's breath. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Co-defendant in wire fraud case may plead guilty

A former manager of a remittance center who was among two persons being charged in federal court for defrauding a Philippine bank of approximately $109,855, may likely admit the charges.

During a status conference last Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, attorney Loren Sutton informed the court that his client, Armilaine Salamat may enter a guilty plea.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood indicated that she will preside over all matters that may arise in this case unless prior approval is obtained.

With respect to Salamat's co-defendant Ana Maria V. Villegas, assistant U.S. attorney Beverly R. McCallum agreed that evidence of Villegas' prior arrest will not be raised at trial.

Last March, Salamat, also known as Armilaine Legaspi Lizama, pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and two counts of wire fraud.

The indictment also charged Villegas, a co-owner of the former Philippine Express Remittance, with one count of conspiracy, and two counts of wire fraud.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in 2004 when Villegas, then a co-owner of Philippine Express Remittance, began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Despite the eventual losses from Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express.

Salamat also transmitted directions by wire for Philippine National Bank to transfer funds into a foreign bank account, based on Villegas' worthless checks.

When all of Villegas' checks were processed, Philippine National Bank took a total loss of approximately $109,855.33.

The trial was set for Aug. 23, 2010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Hillblom's Trust money allegedly used to bribe judges

The trustee of Junior Larry Hillbroom, one of the four DNA-testing proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom, testified in Hawaii that Guam lawyer David J. Lujan told him that he used funds from the Hillbloom's Trust to bribe judges.

The testimony of J.L.H. (Junior Larry Hillbroom) trustee Keith A. Waibel has caused almost all of the Guam Superior Court judges to recuse themselves from presiding over Lujan's defamation lawsuit filed in Guam against Waibel, J.L.H. Trust, and others, according to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Lujan used to serve as lead counsel for Hillbroom in his probate in the CNMI Superior Court.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Lujan for comments.

Lujan, however, in his lawsuit against Waibel and other co-defendants filed in Guam, alleged that Waibel and others in an effort to deflect attention from the losses he caused the J.L.H. Trust, developed a scheme to blame Lujan for the poor state of the trust.

"In furtherance of this scheme, Waibel invented the story that he was 'coerced' into signing the 1999 Retainer by Lujuan and Barry Israel, because they allegedly threatened to 'fire' him as trustee unless he signed it," said Lujan, through counsel Eduardo A. Calvo.

In his declaration, Waibel said in a separate proceeding in Hawaii between J.L.H. Trust and Lujan he was recently deposed and testified that Lujan had told him that he used funds from the trust to bribe judges in order to secure favorable rulings in the probate and guardianship proceedings concerning Hillbroom.

"Subsequent to the discovery of this information, almost all of the Guam Superior Court judges have recused themselves from presiding over the Guam action, and litigation has come to a standstill there until a judge is assigned who is willing to adjudicate the matter," Waibel said.

Guam attorney G. Patrick Civille, counsel for Waibel, in his declaration stated that he was not involved in the Hawaii case and that at time was unaware that Waibel was being deposed.

Civille said Lujan's counsel brought Waibel's deposition testimony to the attention of Guam Superior Court presiding judge Alberto C. Lamorena.

Following the disclosure of the testimony, Lamorena recused himself from the case.

Guam Superior Court has seven judges on the bench. After Lamorena's recusal, the case has been assigned to each of the remaining six Guam judges.

According to Civille, five of those judges have recused themselves, and the sixth, judge Arthur Barcinas, has yet to act on the case.

The declarations of Waibel and Civille were included as among the exhibits in Waibel's opposition to Lujan's motion to dismiss Waibel's cross-complaint against Lujan and others filed in the Central District of California, Western Division.

Waibel said Lujan and his co-counsel Barry Israel approached him in California in 1999 and asked him to serve as trustee for the J.L.H. Trust.

Waibel said in Hillbroom's lawsuit, Hillbroom contends that he (Waibel) overpaid attorney fees to Lujan under the 1999 Retainer.

At the same time, Waibel said, Lujan claims in the Guam action that he (Waibel) underpaid him for the same legal work.

Waibel said the records in the trust bank accounts between 1999 and 2002 indicate that Lujan received nearly $ 1 million in expense reimbursements, more than $18 million in legal fees, approximately $460,000 in protector fees, and $100,000 in protocol fees.

Waibel filed the cross-complaint against Lujan, because Lujan allegedly directed the alleged conspiracy to misappropriate Hillbroom's inheritance.

"While Lujan's fraudulent scheme touched many jurisdictions, including Idaho, Hawaii, Guam, the CNMI, Bermuda, the Cook Islands, and apparently Vietnam, Lujan could not have perpetrated his offense without reaching into California," said Waibel's attorney Robyn C. Crowther.

Last April, Hillbroom brought his lawsuit against Lujan to Saipan. According to his complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI,

According to Hillbroom's complaint, Lujan and conspirators were not happy with the contingency fee capped by the Hillblom probate court so they took several steps to increase the attorney's contingency fee from 38 percent to 56 percent without informing him.

Hillbroom, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, sued Lujan and 10 other unnamed co-defendants, for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, racketeering activity, civil conspiracy, and violations of California Business and Professions Code.

Hanson stated in the complaint that in February 2009, Hillbroom filed the original lawsuit against Lujan in the Central District of California.

Hanson said the California case against Lujan, however, was dismissed after the court found it did not have personal jurisdiction over him.

The approved heirship settlement provided that the Hillblom estate would equally distribute 60 percent of its assets equally to the four qualified heirs, entitling Hillbroom to 15 percent of Hillblom's $550 million estate.

The other heirs were Mercedita Feliciano, Jellian Cuartero, and Nguyen Be Lory. Hillbroom and the three are Hillblom's DNA-proven children.

The lawyer said that, on Nov. 10, 2006, an FBI agent met with Hillbroom in San Francisco and revealed to him for the first time that conspirators stole money from his recovery in the probate.

"Shortly after meeting with the FBI agent, Junior discovered for the first time that his ultimate recovery after the attorneys deducted their inappropriate fees and unsubstantiated costs from his approximately $90 million settlement of the Hillblom Probate Case was only about $12 million," Hanson said.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan on May 21, 1995. He left an estimated $600 million to $700 million assets. Since the Hillblom probate opened in 1995, eight children filed heirship and paternity claims against the estate.

Two women filed late claims in 2001 and 2007, saying their three children are Hillblom's. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Senate OKs bill naming Tinian amphitheater after Antonio M. Borja

The Senate passed a bill naming the Natibu Park amphitheater on Tinian after the late Antonio Manglona Borja, in honor of his hardwork and dedication in getting the facility built.

Senate Bill 17-31, introduced by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), seeks to name the facility the "Antonio Manglona Borja Amphitheater."

Hofschneider, who is also chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said the late Borja, as a former member of the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors, "spent a significant amount of his time and energy in seeing this project through to completion."

Borja was the Tinian representative to the CDA board of directors.

Under the bill, the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources shall commission and provide for signage, to be affixed permanently in a prominent location at the proposed Antonio Manglona Borja Amphitheater "so that it can be seen, without obstruction, from a distance of no less than 100 feet away." ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Benigno R. Fitial
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This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit (Credit) under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with Credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and project that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The Qualified Allocation Plan must incorporate selections criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTC's. NMHC may allocate $2,430,000.00 in LIHTC's for the 2010 program year.

Application for LIHTCs
Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office at Garapan 500514 MIHA Building, Chalan Pale Arnold & Micro Beach Intersection, Saipan, MP 96950.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application and the $250.00 Application Fee in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of 3:00 pm, June 29, 2010. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by July 06, 2010. The Owner/Developer will be given 10 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by July 16, 2010. The projects will be scored and recommendations to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its July 23, 2010 Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards
NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving 2010 LIHTCs by July 30, 2010. Owners/Developers will then have 30 days to complete their market study to meet the requirements. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by August 30, 2010.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MPLT RFP No. 10-01

INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES

SERVICES REQUIRED
The Marianas Public Land Trust, a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is inviting interested insurance brokers, singularly or in partnership with others, to submit technical proposals for providing insurance brokerage services to MPLT. Interested insurance brokers must be licensed in the Northern Mariana Islands and have a current business license.

THE PROCESS
The process will consist of the receipt and evaluation of sealed proposals for technical services. The proposals should demonstrate the ability of the brokers to perform and provide the services enumerated in the Scope of Services stipulated in the Request For Proposal (RFP). At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the highest rated broker will be selected to negotiate fees for services with MPLT. If successful, the broker will be appointed as MPLT's exclusive insurance representative on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed three years.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
The selected broker shall assist MPLT in obtaining insurance coverages for Property and Liability insurance, Automobile, Crime, and Director's & Officer's Liability insurance and providing such other services as may be subsequently negotiated.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE
Proposal packages will be available beginning June 22, 2010 at the MPLT Administrative Office, Capital Hill Unit 1313, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays. Five copies of the sealed proposals shall be submitted to Mr. Phillip Mendiola-Long, MPLT Chairman, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 21, 2010.

EVALUATION
The factors to be used in evaluating the proposals shall be the criteria set forth in the RFP. Each criteria will be assigned a grading up to ten points; the proposer receiving the highest overall score will be selected to negotiate a fee for services. The MPLT reserves the right to reject any proposal deemed not in the best interest of MPLT.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above.

/s/ PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG
MPLT Chairman/Contracting Officer

DCCA wants to takeover teaching of juveniles at center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs wants to takeover the educational instruction of juveniles at the Kagman Detention Facility from the Public School System.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao admitted that is one of the options they will present to PSS once the two government agencies sit down for a meeting.

"That's our plan…to handle that specific responsibility if PSS cannot assure the program's continuity. We're very concerned on the impact it would create to our detained juveniles," said Faisao.

Faisao earlier admitted that detained juveniles at the center currently are only provided four hours of classes in the facility instead of the six hours of instructional services mandated by the policy.

Retired teacher Ambrose Bennett was hired by PSS to serve the youths at the facility last March.

Prior to his appointment, however; detained juveniles didn't get any educational sessions for more than five months, from September 2009 to February this year. Bennett took over from retired teacher Joe Limes.

Faisao

The detention facility has three classrooms that could accommodate nine students each. In an average day, seven to nine juveniles could attend educational sessions.

Saipan Tribune learned that in previous years, DCCA allowed detained youths to receive their educational service in a regular classroom setting by joining students in public schools like Chacha Oceanview Junior High School and Kagman High School.

However, because of the serious risk and danger to the safety of all students—both regular and detained juveniles—the practice was stopped.

This same practice was also the main reason agency receives serious citations from both the local and federal governments.

"Since then, we're very serious in providing this important service to the detained youths… not in the classrooms of public schools but in the facility where special classrooms were built for the purpose. This is why we want to make sure that they will continue to receive these services," Faisao said.

To date, no meeting has been scheduled between DCCA and PSS despite earlier request from the former.

In an interview early this week, Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero denied PSS' failure to provide adequate learning service to detained youths at the center.

DUE TO HIGH FEES

CUC to stop accepting credit cards July 1

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting July 1, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will no longer accept credit cards as a form of payment from customers because it has been racking up costly processing fees.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said the decision was based on the recommendation of Georgetown Consultants, the consultant to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

"The consulting company to the commission advised CUC months ago that we should look into what they considered were the high credit card fees that CUC was paying to the credit card companies. This is just an example of the function of the regulatory process where the commission reviews all the cost components of the utility and makes suggestions," Malae said.

Malae

He disclosed that some of CUC's largest customers have been using credit cards to pay off huge their bills and as a result the utility has been paying about $800,000 a year for credit card fees.

Georgetown Consultants earlier disclosed that CUC incurred in excess of $750,000 in processing fees from credit card companies. These credit card fees cost CUC the equivalent of approximately one percent of its total revenue.

The consultant also revealed that the current high cost of administration of this program also deprives CUC of capital needs for the operations and rehabilitation of the electric, water and wastewater divisions.

The consultant described this approach as "unusual" and disclosed that there is no regulatory commission that allows credit card fees to be included in the development of costs to be included in retail rates.

Korean GM wins McDonald's Share-a-Meal promo

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Seo Jin Seok, all it took was one lucky raffle ticket for him to take home the most coveted prize from a month-long fundraising promotion.

Seo won the grand prize of a roundtrip ticket to any Asian destination during Saturday's raffle draw of McDonald's Share-a-Meal promo.

Launched in June 5, the Share-a-Meal promo was McDonald's way to thank the community and benefit the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter by donating 20 percent of its proceeds to the organization.

McDonald's patrons were able to avail big discounts on happy meals, breakfast meals, and lunch extra value meals all Saturdays of June.

The promo required a minimum purchase of $15 attached to a raffle stub to qualify for Saturday's grand draw.

McDonald's Middle Road location was jam-packed with excited customers who patiently waited for the raffle drawing to start at 3pm.

Seo, general manager of Kimco Enterprises, only had one raffle ticket for the duration of the promo, thanks to his $25.66 food purchase that same day.

"I still don't know where to go yet," Seo said after claiming his roundtrip ticket courtesy of Delta Airlines.

The second prize of $500 went to Richard Cano whose winning ticket was for a $33.67 food purchase.

An engineer at Pacific Marine and Industrial Supply, Cano said he had three tickets for the raffle draw.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library director John Gonzales took home the third prize of an LCD flat screen television after five ticketholders that were drawn before him failed to turn up.

Winners must be present during the raffle draw to claim their prize.

Other major prize winners were Bonifacio Wabol, who won a GE microwave oven; Geon Diaz who won an 8 GB iPod; and Zenaida Cuerdo who won an LG phone from IT&E.

CLARISSA DAVID

Seo Jin Seok accepts the grand prize of a roundtrip ticket to any Asian destination for the McDonald's Share-a-Meal promo raffle draw held at McDonald's Middle Road location. With Seo are Joe Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan president and owner; Marcia Ayuyu, general manager; John Hirsh, executive director of American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Rasa, 2010 Liberation Queen candidate; and McDonald's staff.

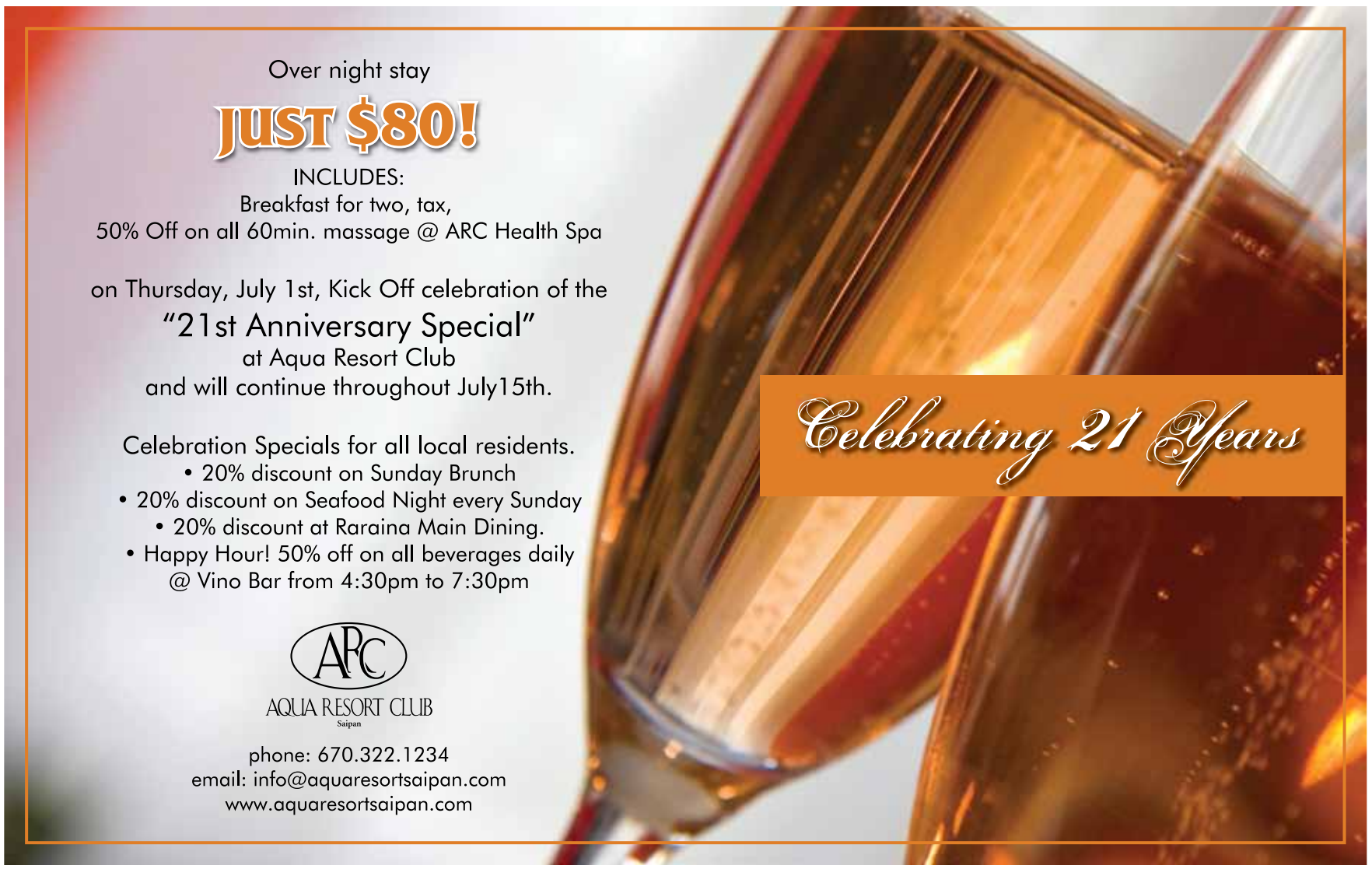
The consolation prize winners who each won a $20 McDonald's gift certificate were Mafie Trinidad, Napoleon Dizon, Yui Naomi Ito, John Parungao, Roca Sablan, Jolene Aguon, Na Lee, Vivian Bernardo, and Ryan Napalan who won two certificates because his name was drawn twice.

Joe Ayuyu, president and owner of McDonald's Saipan, was pleased about the "upbeat" response of the community for the Share-a-Meal promo.

Ayuyu said that McDonald's is always helpful to the different sectors of the community and this time, they chose the American Red Cross NMI Chapter as their beneficiary. "We're very happy and proud to be a part of this fundraising," he said.

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said they are pleased to be working with a "very community oriented" company.

Hirsh added they are happy to be chosen by McDonald's to receive the donation and equally happy to see people having fun while helping the community.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Celebrating 21 Years

Hard Rock Café's Rock Aid 3 raises over $10,000 for Guam's homeless

GUAM—The Rock Aid 3 event, held last June 9 at the Hard Rock Café, was a huge success with ticket, silent auction and raffle sales far exceeding expectations. Roughly 330 people were in attendance and proceeds of over $10,000 was donated to the Salvation Army Homeless Assistance Program in Guam.

Sponsors came out in full force, including the Soroptimist International of Guam, Hard Rock Cafe, Continental Airlines, Market Wholesale, GNC, Graphic Center, KUAM Careforce and PDN.

The president of Continental Airlines, Charles Duncan, stopped by to present the evening's biggest raffle giveaway—two roundtrip tickets to choice of Hong Kong, Fiji, or Manila—to lucky winner Nette Camacho.

Winners of the silent auction walked away with Coach handbags, hotel packages, jewelry, wine, and more—for less than half their retail value.

Cameo performances from legendary rock icons included Elvis, Tina Turner, Michael Jackson and Jackson 5, and Janis Joplin. The Pago Bay Rockers played classic rock tunes throughout the night.

The Hard Rock Ambassadors, consisting of management and staff, hosted the evening as part of their continued mission to give back to the community. The evening ended their month-long food drive, which collected nonperishable food items for the Salvation Army.

The number of homeless people in Guam has risen dramatically, from about 1,000 to 1,600 within two short years. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Rock Aid 3 dinner will go to The Salvation Army Family Services for their homeless prevention and assistance programs. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rena Borja, SIG president; Janis Joplin, Remko Engelman, Hard Rock Cafe regional director; Charles Duncan, Continental Airlines president; Nette Camacho, Donna Kloppenberg, Salvation Army director of PR and Development; and Elvis.

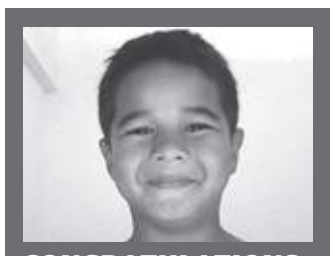
CCA board to meet tomorrow

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening its monthly meeting tomorrow, June 29, starting 2pm at the Department of Public Health, Secretary's Conference Room No. 2.

The agenda will include a presentation from University of Guam researchers on a betel nut and oral cancer pilot study to be conducted in the CNM, submittal of the final 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee Report, discussion of an upcoming Pacific Center for Excellence in Elimination of Disparities (CEED) grant funding opportunity, and reports from board committees and the program manager.

The full agenda is attached in this email. All CCA Board meetings are open to the public, and any interested member of the community is welcome to attend.

For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org . ***(PR)***



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Phillip "PIO" Peter Nogis on your first holy communion and belated happy 8th birthday last June 26. Greetings from your brothers, sister, mommy, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPW-114

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 13, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF AN INDUSTRIAL GRINDER TO MANAGE THE ORGANIC WASTE SYSTEM - CIF SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED BIDDERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING TO NO LATER THAN **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JULY 01, 2010** TO THE DPW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION BY FAX TO (670) 322-2762 OR EMAIL AT dpwsolidwaste@pticom.com.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH; LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN** SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS
/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S
/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA** Secretary of Commerce
/s/ **THELMA B. INOS** Energy Director

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP: 2010-CDA-10-RFP
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"REAL ESTATE BROKER SERVICES"

Copies of the proposal may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN Executive Director
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The Commonwealth Development Authority will put up for sale, its 2000 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK located at its SAIPAN OFFICE. The sell will be made by competitive sealed bids. Minimum bid acceptable for the vehicle is $3,000 and bids should be submitted by 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 23, 2010 at the CDA Office, Wakins Building, Gualo Rai. Bid opening and award to the highest bidder will follow right after the 10:00 a.m. closing. All bids will be publicly announced.

All sealed bids must contain the following information.

- Full Name, Address and Contact number
- Bid Amount

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Such payment shall be in U.S. Currency or Certified Check made payable on demand in U.S. Currency to the Commonwealth Development Authority. Payment must be received by 3:00 p.m., Friday, July 23, 2010. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bids or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CDA.

The vehicle will be sold as is and without warranty. Inspection of the vehicle is recommended and may be arranged with Mr. Joaquin Flores any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays except holidays.

VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

MAKE:	TOYOTA
MODEL:	Tacoma Regular Cab Short Bed
COLOR:	White
YEAR:	2000
MECHANICAL:	4 Cylinder/Automatic/Power Steering and Power Brakes
MILEAGE:	125K
OTHER FEATURES:	Air Condition AM/FM Radio Cassette
CONDITION:	Fair

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664 4550 • Fax: (670) 664 4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the CNMI State Advisory Group (SAG), also known as the "Youth Advisory Council" (YAC) of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Official Meeting on **Tuesday, June 29, 2010 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M., Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL and REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

IV. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES, from YAC meeting of December 17, 2010**
- o 2009 YAC Awards

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
- Welcoming and Introduction of members.
- Election of Vice Chair for the YAC
- Review of YAC By-Laws
- Council Member Orientation Training
- Juvenile Justice Task Force Update
- Upcoming JJ Act and Compliance Training July 1st.
- Other YAC Priorities

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Next Youth Advisory Council Meeting
- FY 2010 OJJDP Funding

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/ Mr. Jose Limes
Chairperson
Youth Advisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome I. Ierome
Executive Director,
Criminal Justice Planning Agency

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2009-DJ-BX 0421, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 28, 1999

Federal govt. drop portable jail plan

The US government has dropped its earlier plans to bring a portable jail on Saipan which will serve as a detention facility for CNMI prisoners awaiting trial for federal offense. Saying it has gone by the wayside, Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram, it will prove costly for the federal government to repair the portable jail previously owned by the US Navy based in Florida. "The federal detention facility has been dropped due to the cost of the renovation," he said. During his meeting with federal officers this month, Ingram inquired if the CNMI government can instead use the money to upgrade its existing detention.

Gov't. suspends pay hikes, promotions

The Office of the Governor has suspended all pay increases due to permanent or temporary promotions, acting or detail assignment, reallocation or reclassification of position, step increases and other training programs because of the current austerity measures. In a memorandum to all department and activity heads issued by Jose I Deleon Guerrero, special assistant for administration, he said the Civil Service Commission has put into effect regulations suspending all salary increases. Guerrero asked all government officials to adhere strictly to the regulations since none of the above will be considered regardless of sources of funding.

June 28, 2000

New law prohibits hunting of Paluman Tottot

Hunting of the Commonwealth Bird Paluman Tottot is now prohibitive under a new law signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Monday. Public Law 12-8 strengthens the regulations being implemented by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to protect all bird species endemic to the Northern Marianas, he said. Likewise, the governor expressed relief that the division has reported a "healthy" and "increasing" population of Tottot which had been excluded from the endangered list until enactment of the new law.

Mariana fruit bat safe from deadly virus

The Mariana fruit bat's (Pteropus mariannus) chances of acquiring the deadly virus that killed a hundred people and caused the ruin of animal farms in certain parts of Southeast Asia is very slim, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources said yesterday, reacting to recent reports that traced fruit bats as the carrier of the said virus. Despite reports that the Island Flying Fox, a type of fruit bat, Fox, is migratory and is likely to spread to other countries, DLNR Secretary Joaquin Tenorio expressed confidence that fruit bats endemic to the Northern Marianas will least be affected. "Flying foxes as a specie are tremendous in number. It is very unlikely that they would spread to the CNMI from Southeast Asia. Besides, there is a small percentage of the so-called carrier that's infected with the virus," said Dr. Tenorio.

June 28, 2001

Businessmen fear hike in rental fees

Beach concessions on Saipan that run watersports -- ranging from jetskis, to banana boats and parasailing activities -- are hoping that rental fees will remain at its current level once they tackle the issue with the government in August. The leader of the group of beach concessionaires, Jose T. Attao, fears the Office of Public Lands may increase rental fees, which would further aggravate their already shaky financial standings. He said any plans by Public Lands to assess higher rental fees would only kill the operations of beach concessions around Saipan. Attao also fears that Public Lands may bid out existing lots, which would ultimately lead to the demise of small operators.

Laws on child abuse expanded

Day-care providers and counselors may now legally report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, and abused children may no longer testify before a jury about their traumatic experiences. This came about soon after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law Senate Bill 12-103, which amended the Commonwealth's laws on child abuse and neglect. The measure, now known as Public Law 12-56, expanded and clarified the definition of child abuse and the category of persons who are legally required to report instances of child abuse, neglect and sexual molestation. It also lowered the maximum fine for perpetrators so that cases like these would not have to undergo jury trials.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-070

"GENERAL REPAIR WORK FOR SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair Work at Saipan Southern High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package is available beginning on June 21, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $68.55.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 9, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-070, and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, July 21, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:00 a.m. local time July 23, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on July 21, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or email to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 21, 2010 and must be received no later than July 30, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 9:00 a.m., August 3, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-034

REHABILITATION OF THE AGINGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Office of the Governor, Benigno R. Fitial and the office of Lt. Governor, Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Rehabilitation of the the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A Pre-Bid conference for this project is scheduled at 9:00 AM., on June 4, 2010, at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Saipan. A project site visit and inspection follows the Pre-Bid meeting.

A non-refundable payment of $200 will be required for each set of Plans, Specification, and Proposal Forms, and will be made available for pick-up, on or after May 28, 2010 at the CUC Water-Wastewater Division Office the 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan,

One (1) original and five (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-10-034, REHABILITATION OF THE AGINGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 29, 2010** at 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior. Progress payments shall be made to the Contractor.

The project consists, in general, of rehabilitating and upgrading the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant. The work shall be done in sequence as necessary in order not to disrupt the daily operation of the treatment plant. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the Belt Filter Press equipment, replacement of pumps, emptying and clean up of all the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, manifolds, clarifier mechanism and accessories, etc.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All technical and procurement inquiries should be directed to Capt. Robert Lorenz, CUC Waste/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net, Christy Lazaro, CUC Waste/Wastewater Engineer via email Ms. Christi@cucgov.net. & Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE U. MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-071

"GENERAL REPAIR WORK FOR KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair Work at Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package is available beginning on June 21, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $73.40.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 9, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at Kagman High School Cafeteria Saipan in Kagman, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-071, and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:30 a.m., local time, July 21, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:30 a.m. local time July 23, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:30 a.m. local time on July 21, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or email to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 21, 2010 and must be received no later than July 30, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m., August 3, 2010.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-077

"GENERAL REPAIR WORK FOR MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair Work of Marianas High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package is available beginning on June 21, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $73.65.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 9, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at Marianas High School Conference Room, Building H, Susupe, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-077, and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, July 21, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. local time July 23, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

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/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 152

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Easing the Gaza blockade is a step forward

Israel is moving in the right direction by easing the punishing economic blockade of the Gaza Strip that it imposed when the radical Islamic movement Hamas seized control of the enclave in June 2007 and captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. This will help alleviate the misery of 1.5 million Palestinians, the overwhelming majority of whom Israel prohibits from leaving the enclosed territory. It is progress, but will not by itself end what the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States jointly termed the "unsustainable, unacceptable" humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza.

The Israeli government has a right to defend its citizens against attacks from Hamas, which is dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state, and to expect the international community, including neighboring Egypt, to help prevent weapons trafficking to Hamas. But Israel was wrong to try to weaken Hamas with a general blockade, controlling the flow of food and fuel to civilians and banning delivery of building supplies, even after destroying whole neighborhoods during the 2008 war there.

Israel is relaxing the siege in the face of widespread international opprobrium for killing nine Turkish activists during a May 31 raid on ships trying to break through with aid. Under the new rules, instead of maintaining a list of a few goods that will be allowed into the strip, Israel will keep a list of goods that are forbidden, including weapons and materials that can be used to make them, although it's not clear what that means for dual-use items that could be used for peaceful or military purposes. The White House, in turn, announced that President Obama is rescheduling a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that was canceled after the deadly assault.

These are hopeful signs, but they must be followed by concrete actions on the ground, as well as by further measures to allow freedom of movement for the people of Gaza and exports from the economically ravaged zone. Hamas should follow suit by releasing Shalit, now 24, who has been held virtually incommunicado since being captured four years ago this week.

Unfortunately, history suggests that easing the Gaza blockade will provide only short-term relief until the next crisis or conflagration. Each step forward in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict seems to be accompanied by a step back, as was the case Monday when a Jerusalem planning panel approved a proposal to raze 22 Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem for an Israeli tourist center. The two sides and their international interlocutors must get back to the negotiating table and keep their eyes on the overarching issues of Palestinian statehood and security for Israel. Only then can the people of Gaza, the rest of the Palestinian territories and Israel truly hope to be free.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times.

Where are the leaders we hoped for?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Once in ancient Greece, when the city of Athens was in turmoil, one old man began to walk the streets during the daytime with a lighted lantern. People would stop him and ask: "Why are you walking in the daytime with a lighted lantern?" He replied: "In our moment of darkness, I am searching for an enlightened man to lead us!"

Today we are in desperate need of enlightened leaders in our moment of darkness. So we too must start looking seriously for them. A country's strength and greatness comes from two sources. One is from its educated citizens that work hard for their country. The other source of greatness comes from men and women who understand leadership. These rare individuals practice the qualities of leadership under great discipline to lead their country to greatness.

Last Monday I wrote a plea to our governor to come forth and lead us. I hope he read it and is considering my plea. This Monday I plea to our legislators who must also show leadership, not from their words, but from their actions. We have 29 men and women who have raised their hands and shouted: "I want to lead and make my country better." But for some reason our problems are not being solved. In fact, they are multiplying. So let's ask them what is happening. Why aren't they leading?

"Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature: The community and I are making a passionate plea to you to lead us out of this despair. Please don't turn a deaf ear. Show us that you can lead and will do so at any cost to you, as a good soldier does for his country. As you read the following paragraphs, take a personal test on how you stand on the qualities discussed below. What is your score?

Let's define leadership as a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective. He also directs the people he is influencing. The leader motivates other people to perform or accomplish acts. A leader accepts responsibility, blaming no one. And is always asking the question: "How can I improve the lives of my people?" He leads by example, not by words. The leader possesses confidence and acts with faith and conviction. He knows the price he has to pay for his beliefs and accepts it.

A leader understands that it takes a lot of heart to be courageous. A leader exerts great mental and moral strength to venture and persevere. A great leader does not say "go"—instead he shouts: "Follow me!" He couples compassion with faith which gives him fidelity in keeping his promises.

A great leader understands that integrity attracts followers. He instills trust in his ability to lead. He is motivated by love for his people, not for what he can gain. He understands what has to be done and enters the arena ready for battle.

These are just the basics of a great leader. If you don't feel and believe in the above mentioned qualities, then why did all 29 of you cry out to us citizens: We want to be your leaders?

Marcus Aurelius, the great Roman emperor, wrote in his masterpiece *Meditations* "Waste no time arguing what a good man should be. Be one!" Later in his book he added: "A man then must stand erect, not be kept erect by others." Leaders are not born, but made. They become!

In reviewing all the various committees in the House and Senate, I find it difficult to understand why there is not more vocal outrage and table pounding about our problems. What is preventing you from attacking the problems?

For instance, why is the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications remaining silent on the entire travesty happening within the CUC? It is a plague that haunts us day and night and yet the committee remains silent. You mean to tell us citizens that none of you has a plan for healing the plague?

Where is the Committee on Commerce and Tourism now that our tourist market is failing? You mean to tell us that there is nothing you can do? Have any of the members of the committee been consulting with MVA and working together to regain our market share?

Where are the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs? Don't you see the diamonds under our feet waiting to be harvested? Our land begs to be cultivated but instead lies fallow while we sit and whine that we are so poor. Our beautiful land is our most important asset, yet we don't see its value.

What is the Committee on Health doing to improve the conditions at the Commonwealth Health Center? A law is on the books that states sometime soon the CHC will become privatized. Strange that no one is even whispering about this matter. Why not? You mean there is no intention to do this?

One oddity I find in many of the laws you pass, is that rarely do they state who is responsible for enforcing that law. Could that be the reason that many of our laws are not carried out and quickly forgotten?

Last Friday you committed a dastardly deed to most government employees. For the first time in the history of our government, you and the administration FAILED to pay the employees

See WHERE ARE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rude ungently Down Under

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Well, it is actually Rudd, Kevin Rudd to be precise, who until June 24 was the prime minister of Australia, with an 89 percent approval rating in the polls early 2008. His was a politics of decency, the centerpiece of his government. "Compassion is not a dirty word," he said. "It is a hallmark of great strength."

"Time it was, and what a time it was. A time of innocence, a time of confidences," Paul Simon's lyrics seem appropriate. It feels like only yesterday when Australia redeemed itself from an inglorious genocidal past in the Nation's Apology, the "Sorry Ceremony" led by Rudd to expiate for the nation's hideous sins against the aborigines. Rudd the academic and diplomat, ushered the promise of new governance after the staunch reactionary government of John Howard whose vision of a "One Australia" was a silent affirmation but practical defense of the preeminence of the Caucasian race over everyone else, especially the Australian Muslims who were told to integrate, or else.

Steely in determination and polished in performance, Rudd grew up with a keen sense of injustice in a poverty stricken environment, noting the acts of omissions of the state in its social responsibilities, and decrying the acts of commissions by genteel people against the marginalized and the downtrodden. Rudd heeded the likes of Dietrich Bonheoffer, the young German theologian who wrestled down the ethics of freedom, obedience and responsibility in Hitler's Germany, and in the process paid dearly with his life.

The solitariness of lofty minded Kevin of lowly beginnings would end up being his worst enemy. Unable to delegate responsibility, reminiscent of Jimmy Carter in the White House who bothered with the minutiae of the tennis court schedule, Rudd was seen as a small-minded technocrat, an autocratic manager rather than a facilitative leader. The image of the "control freak" left him exposed and vulnerable to the hubris of illusory personal certitude and delusionary self-confidence. Rudd stumbled on the nation's desire to put a price tag on carbon emissions, and allowed the government to get into a shouting match with the lords of the mining industry. Non-consultative Rudd succumbed to the inevitable. He was rudely *coup'd* out of Australia's PM office. There are many versions on how that went, along with the process of denouement from a "man of vision" to exile to oblivion, but suffice to say that the surgical putsch was quick and clean.

The new head honcho in Canberra is a dashing redhead of many shades. And what a babe, this Julia Eileen Gillard! A woman in her own right, not a bloke in drag, she comes to the leadership of the ruling Labor Party as Rudd's deputy prime minister before she challenged his *primus inter pares* standing. Julia Gillard is not just a woman; she's not married, childless, a proud undomesticated feminist unapologetically shacked up with a hairdresser. "There's a Sheila running Oz," headlines Online Mail, and the first female Prime Minister of Australia comes as a primordial shaking of the foundations of a nation heretofore thoroughly blokey.

And she is a Pom (Brit). Born in Wales, her family moved Down Under when she was not yet 5. Of course, had her Welsh family moved to the NMI, she would still be a contract worker, but that is another story.

Though New Zealand and Australia were among the first countries to give women the vote, the islands/continent are not known for recognizing female values and promoting feminine virtues. But Julia is no rude Sheila. She extolled Rudd for successfully shepherding Oz through the global financial crisis without the massive dislocation of workers as had happened elsewhere. She was also clear that the government "had lost its way." When a ship of State flounders in a storm with unsteady hands at the helm sans the crew's trust, then a singular decision before the tempest emerges. Julia pointed her hairdo head-on into the wind, and said, "I do!" The Labor Party gave its blessings.

The historic ascendancy of lady Gillard to the PM's office has supporting casts. The Governor General of Australia, Quentin Alice Louise Bryce wears a skirt (kilts don't count), also a first. Professor Marie Roslyn Bashir has been the State Governor of New South Wales for a decade, also Chancellor of the University of Sydney. USA born Kristina Kerscher Keneally is NSW first and recent female State Premier, she with the discernable Ohio twang, following Victoria, West Australia and Queensland's lead in the female Premier department. Clover Moore is currently the Lord Mayor of Sydney, a position she was elected to in 2004. Are we witnessing the shattering of the political 'glass ceiling', and would not that headwind be very welcomed in Micronesia?

President Obama was developing close ties with Kevin Rudd, as George W. Bush did with John Howard (the latter accused of governing on the coattails of Uncle Sam); he congratulated the new lady PM. (Stated thus, it does not seem too enthusiastic, does it?) They would have met in the G20 summit in Toronto this coming week, but Gillard decided to stay and consolidate Labor's facelift before the national elections expected the end of the year. Ironically, Rudd's declining approval ratings might have been stemmed had Obama proceeded with his State visit to Australia in March, but that speculation is as valid as saying that the immigration status of aliens in the CNMI would be clearer had the President done that trip and stopped over in Guam.

Rudd is back-benching in Parliament these days, probably, humming "Rude it to me gently," as he watches the chamber's debate. PM Gillard would do well to "Rudd Kevin gently" to the Foreign Minister's portfolio. Or, Oz Embassy in China needs a new Ambo and Kevinspeaks *Putunghua.* There's a fit!

'Nai Nubladu I Haane

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Hu huñgog gi chagu katen paluma (chuñge) ni mau'udai libre gi asut mapagahes iya paraisu. I haane nubladu, potput yan homhum na mapagahes sige man-rikohe gi sanlagu. Dispues hu huñgog ekun talañgan hulu gi ge'katan. Señat para chata'an i haane.

I homhum mapagahes yan finatton uchan ha choneg fuetsau un' triste na señiente giya guahu. Sigeyu kumanta silensiu man-triste siha na tunada. Maseha ti hu komprende i signifikasion ayu na momentu, sinparat i triste na sunidu gi guieñg-hu. Sige pagu hu kepula' hafa na mamatmos-yu gi halom este na sadog.

Mafattu gi hinasoghu i man-ñgañgaha' hulu gi lañget man-e'ensinahyau inaligau fina' ayudu 'sino maseha hafa na mensahe ni na'magof. Deste chinatsagan apas obligasion familia tat kumu guma, kareta, nesesidat famaguon ni man-eskuekuela kontra lekau na gaston utilidat, man-atotpe gi halom hinasoghu.

Mas maluñu' sinienteghu 'nai hu konsidedra kuanto para u fan ma'amot ni gima' niha gi halom este na mattiru. Hafa mohon na ausiliu siña tanae' este siha na tautau-ta? Yangin man-satton i man-ma'gasta, siempre umasoda propiu satbasion. Man-e'ensinahyau ineppe i tautau-ta gi este asuntu.

Siña ta batbaruye priniponen ma-utot numeron empleau gobietno. Lau manu 'nai para ta sodae' chechu niha 'nai kontodu bandan bisnis sumen taya' chochu? Buente este siha na chinatsaga muna' tristeyu guihe na ogaan gi kanton tasi.

Kinalamten gi Oriya

Diariamente, hu pupulan hafa masusesede gi oriya tat komo Japon, South Korea, yan otru man-dañkulu siha na sisteman ekonomia giya Asia.

Yangin man-homlu' kinalamten niha, pues siempre u tinatiye mauleg yan felis haanen tautau niha. Yangin mauleg i kinalamten, pues u homlu tatte I chinatsagan i nasion siha ni man-matotompu' pagu.

Adelanto giya siha siempre ha palalae' mage iya Marianas yan otru man-dikiki na ekonomian isla.

Lau dididi' hana' chatsagayu kinalamten iya Japon pot rason na dañkulu lokue dibiña, acha megai yan ha produduse kada sakan. Kulan iya America ni ha gagasta siñko pesos gi kada tres pesos ni hana' halom.

Mientras tantos, kulan hu añgoñgoghu iya China na u lalagse' kinalamteña. Lau pinalolopu' lokue probleman empleau ni dumimamanda lamauleg na sueddo. Megai man-tai chechu, kase 15 miyon giya America yan mas megai giya Uropa yan Asia.

Esta mananayuyot-yu' na u chadeg mauleg ekonomian niha sa' soluke lumagse' tatte, kontodu hita guine man-hinegse mattiempu mientras ke babasnag I bisinuta siha gi oriya.

Otro siha asuntu:

Antes, gi kada finagpu lisayun entre semana gi katidrat mafattu un' amku manayuyot 'nai esta man-hanau todu i tautau para i gima niha. Diariu ha besisita i Gima Yuus 'an esta kayada tautau.

Un' pupueñge, tinagam ni un' amigaña ya finaisen hafa na mampos atrasasau mattu gi Gima Yuus. Ineppe ni amku: "Ai señora, este ha magaguhu ya mamahlauyu mattu mage yan bihun trahihu".

Siña ilegta namase ayu na amku. Lau megaiña ha rikohe na indu-thensia pot himidde yan tinayuyot ke megaiña gi entre hita.

■■■

'Nai esta un' tutuhon mamokat gi chalan sisienta años, adumididi un' ripara na i hagas fitme na sensin kanaimu yan adeñgmu madirite ginen sagan niha. Esta ti parehu kantan sinsen-mu yan metgot sensia-mu.

Magahet na makat hu aksepta maliñgun fuetsaghu. Lau 'nai esta tres biahe hu hala i kestat pugas ginen tatten kareta ya guahu podoñg halom, ileghu: Pas Chamorro! Antes 'nai hobenyu, hu dagau akakague i 90-libra na kestat simientu sin umuguñg. Pagu na biahe, guseña ha hogseyu ennau na kostat. A` Saina!

■■■

'Nai ha bira siha tatte i primet na medikun natibu man-machochu gi hospitat CHC. Un' taloane sige tatte gi offisinan niha ginen man-amotsa. Humuyuñg un' bihu ginen kuattoña chata' mamomokat, kulan mohon para u poduñg. Mañgontrata i tres mediku para uma-apotsu probleman i amku gi hechuran kuestion.

"Gai problema hau reñihion saina?" mamaisen i primet mediku. "Ai na man-linache hit famaguonhu". "Probleman estomagu no saina?", finaisen ni segundu. "Ai na man-linache hit famaguonhu."

"Puti parahiyamu?", mamaisen i tetset. "Ai na man-linache hit famaguonhu".

"Na hafa saina pinadesisimu?"

"Hu tatkeyu, famaguonhu!"

WHERE ARE

From Page 10

their wages on time. What excuse justifies your action? Didn't anyone foresee that?

You keep playing a shell con game by shifting funds from one shell to another, but sooner or later there will be no money to shift from shell to shell. We all have learned that if we don't sow, we will not reap. If we don't put in, there is nothing to take out. Ladies and gentlemen, what are doing? Where are we going? Is this leadership? Is anybody planning how to vitalize the economy or just whining? We can only cut so much. We have to create income to replace the outflow.

Stop hiding behind party walls. The more you shout you are a Democrat or Republican or Covenant or even an Independent, you lose your strength and become a follower. Find your beliefs, set goals to them and stand erect and champion them! To do any less is to betray the trust we placed in you when you promised to help us.

By this time you will either tell me to shout up because I don't know what the heck I am talking about, or you will silently admit that you are failing us citizens. Which is it, ladies and gentlemen?

Forgive my blustering for a moment. Twenty-six years ago, I ventured to visit these lovely islands and instantly fell in love with them. I saw diamonds on the shores and in the mountains as I gazed about. Now after 26 years, I am even more in love with what God has favored us with.

As I did 26 years ago, I still see diamonds on the shores and on the mountains. I have picked up my share of them. Hopefully you too see the diamonds at our feet. Let's work together and cultivate them. If we stretch out our hands, we can enjoy a cornucopia of plenty.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, I respect all of you and wish you the best in the world. What you are tasked to do is not easy, yet not impossible. We, the citizens, wish to work closely with you in your attempts to steer our ship to safe harbor. Please stand tall and LEAD US! There are many ways for us to regain our lost prosperity. But are you willing to take the role of a true leader? We stand ready to follow. Let's do it for God and country!

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

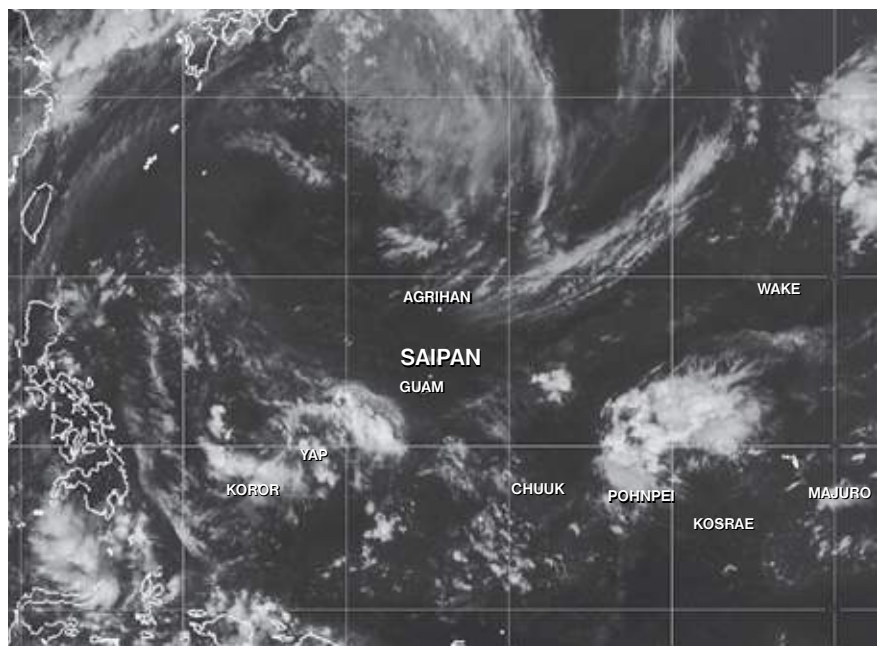
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲76	▼69
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼59
Seoul	Showers	▲80	▼67
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲81	▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲97	▼82

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau and Yap in an area from 13N140E to 10N145E to 6N137E to 9N132E back to 13N140E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Pohnpei in an area from 13N156E to 13N166E to 6N156E back to 13N156E. Divergence associated with an upper-level trough is triggering scattered showers southeast of Minami Tori Shima within 60 miles of a line from 22N155E to 25N161E and scattered showers with a few thunderstorms are northeast of Wake Island to the north of a line from 24N166E to 22N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:15 PM	7:04 AM
Tuesday	8:56 PM	7:55 AM
Wednesday	9:33 PM	8:45 AM
Thursday	10:08 PM	9:32 AM
Friday	10:43 PM	10:18 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Never forgotten: 60 years after the Korean War began, an Asian leader gives thanks

By LEE MYUNG-BAK
Los Angeles Times

Lee Myung-bak is president of the Republic of Korea. He wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Sixty years ago, at dawn on June 25, the Korean War broke out when Communist North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea. In response, 16 member countries of the United Nations, including the United States, joined with the Republic of Korea to defend freedom. Over the next three years of fighting, about 37,000 Americans lost their lives. They fought for the freedom of Koreans they did not even know, and thanks to their courage, sacrifices and unbreakable will, the peace and democracy of the republic were protected.

On the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, I remain grateful to America for having participated in the war. At that time, the Republic of Korea was one of the most impoverished countries, with an annual per capita income of less than $40. In 2009, my country became a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee, the first aid recipient to become a donor and in only one generation. The Republic of Korea is engaged in peacekeeping missions in 14 countries to promote global peace. It will host the G-20 summit in November, and in 2012 the second nuclear security summit.

The Republic of Korea has emerged as an important partner of the United States in many parts of the world.

Also, in the course of investigating and responding to the North's March sinking of our naval vessel the Cheonan, Seoul and Washington have closely coordinated efforts and expertise. In all these endeavors, we are not losing sight of the necessity of eventually turning the Korean Peninsula into a cradle of regional and world peace.

On this significant occasion, all Koreans pay tribute to the heroes fallen in defense of freedom and democracy. I firmly believe that future generations in both countries will further advance the strong Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance into one befitting the spirit of the new age.

Letters to the Editor

Rainbow island

I am baffled that the Interior Department has made recommendations about the immigration status of nonresident workers when the federal government itself has yet to figure out a solution to deal with illegal immigration here in the United States.

As it is, Arizona enacted and passed the most stringent immigration law in the nation, which takes effect next month, and Washington has yet to make a decision on whether Arizona can enforce federal immigration law.

Arizona opted to control its borders since the federal government cannot seem to get its act together and I ask our legislators to do the same. Unlike any other, our relationship with the United States is unique and governed by the Covenant.

As a people, we need to make a decision on what status, if any, we are giving our nonresident guest workers. We cannot stand idly by and let federal government make the decision for us.

With that said, we must not have an us against them mentality. President Mandela once described South Africa as a rainbow nation. Our people and our culture are about acceptance. I love the CNMI because we are a of rainbow nation. Our indigenous people have intermarried people from other cultures. They are as much as part of us as we are of them.

However, we need to take control of our destiny. I doubt the federal government is willing to give resident status to all individuals who are in the United States illegally. In fact, I just read an article about a young girl who grew up in Iowa and was an honors student at a university who was in the country illegally. Her status was discovered when a law enforcement officer initiated a traffic stop for a minor violation and she was deported immediately to her birth country. A country she does not know. Whatever decision our people make, not everyone will be happy.

In my opinion, let the people vote on the issue. We all have to live with the consequences, whatever they may be.

Marie Rios-Martinez
Via e-mail

My two cents worth

During the '80s the CNMI was blessed with lots of things and investors from Japan invested heavily in our economy. Some locals became millionaires overnight and many did not know how to manage such magnitude of wealth.

Japan Airlines was at the forefront of the pact and the corporation infused millions of dollars into the CNMI economy. At that time, the CNMI government's annual fiscal budget exceeded the $200-million mark. The fulltime employee positions and ungraded (political hires) positions within the local government skyrocketed and the CNMI was the major provider of employment for the locals in the Mariana Islands.

To accommodate the economic boom of the '80s, our elected officials saw the potential of importing contract workers from other countries. For decades, the poor management of the local immigration policy and the constant changes of the laws dealing with the businesses in the CNMI took its toll.

The federal government warned the CNMI government of the consequences of having over 50 percent of its annual budget allocated to fulltime employee positions. The feds encouraged our local government to concentrate on building our infrastructures to accommodate future expansion of our economy.

Also, at the same time the feds warned our elected officials about the importation of temporary workers from elsewhere in the world. The warning fell on death ears. Over the years our government kept our local minimum wages at bay, so the few can rake in millions of dollars of profits.

But at the same time, millions of dollars were being sent out of the CNMI which created a rippling effect in our economy. Foreign businesses sent their profits to their respective countries and at the same time the contract workers were remitting their wages to their families to support them at their country of origin.

The CNMI government used Section 902 under the Covenant agreement with United States government, to negotiate with the federal government not to grant U.S. citizenship to anyone born of contract worker parents in the CNMI. Section 902 under the Covenant agreement was being abused by the CNMI government, by trying to use such avenue to defy the United States Constitution granting anyone born in the United States or its territories U.S. citizenship. Section 701 under the Covenant agreement, mandated that the federal government have to intervene with the depressed local minimum wages, because such depress wages for decades was a deprivation of the commoners way of lives in the Mariana Island chain.

If you want to compare it in real time, one hour of wages will not buy you a gallon of gas at one point in time in the CNMI. With the passage of U.S. Senate bill 2739 (The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008) and it is now U.S. Public Law 110-229, our hope for many of us commoners to have a better outlook of our future had materialized.

Also, our brothers and sisters who had contributed to our economic growth in the CNMI for decades will fare better. Hopefully with the blessing of the United States government, they will harvest the fruits from their hard work and they will become the newest families in our great nation called the United States of America.

The commoners in the CNMI are fortunate that under the Covenant Agreement, two thirds of the voting population have to vote for succession and with the approval of the United States Congress. So the notion to ever become an independent island chain is unattainable in the foreseeable future. The federal government has vast resources and they will prevail defending the commoners in the CNMI in the judicial system in the future to come.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, CA

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Regular*** meeting **Thursday, July 1, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
  - 1. April 30, 2010

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  - 1. Communication
- B. Report of the Administrator / Deputy Administrator
  - 1. Communication
  - 2. Accounting Report
    - a) NMI Retirement Fund
    - b) GHLITF
    - c) WCC
  - 3. Other Administrative Status / Updates
- C. Report of the Committees
  - 1. Operations, Personnel & Review
  - 2. Finance & Investment
  - 3. Special
- D. Report of the Investment Director
  - 1. Status of Investments
  - 2. Report of the Member Home Loan Program
- E. Report of the Internal Auditor

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsel and Administrative Hearing Officer
  - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
  - 2. Report of the Hearing Officer

V. OLD BUSINESS
- A. MHL Program (Reopen Status)
- B. FY2011 Budget
- C. Board Resolution 09-003

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- A. NMIRF Case No. 09-001
- B. Request for Exemption – T. Colton
- C. Administrator Position
- D. Designation of Acting Administrator

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER MATTERS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Star 1 Corporation (Star ATV Tracking)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2010-1466, lot 1673-1-6, Kannat Tabla for Amusement, Outdoor.

Date: **July 12, 2010 (Monday)**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.**

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 13, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chairperson

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Triple J Saipan Inc. (Sandy Beach Homes)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2010-1474 containing lots 008 H 26, 012 H 33, 012 H 34, 012 H 35 and 012 H 36, Chalan Kanoa Dist#4 for Multifamily / Apartments.

Date: **July 12, 2010 (Monday)**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.**

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 13, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

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/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chairperson

Army Reserve-sponsored Education Fair offers support to all

Soldiers, families, veterans, high school seniors, and other members of the community gathered at the U.S. Army Reserve Center last Saturday for the U.S. Army Reserve Theater Support Group's first-ever Education Fair on Saipan.

Representatives from four universities were available to answer questions on topics to include distance learning options and various undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Additionally, representatives from Veterans Affairs, the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and both Coast Guard and Army recruiters were available to offer their expertise.

Leading the effort was Marsha Wellein, Army Reserve regional director of education for the Pacific and Asia, and Dr. Donna Duellberg, U.S. Coast Guard education services officer for region 14. Duellberg and Wellein teamed up in order to maximize college involvement and make the opportunity available to the entire Saipan community.

"This is really a golden opportunity to learn about all of the options that are available," said Wellein. "People are eager for information. They want to know about the processes for the GI Bill and tuition assistance; they want to know how to use their benefits."

Originally the Education Fair was only being hosted in Guam, but through strategically coordinated efforts made by the Army Reserve Education Office, the U.S. Coast Guard Education Office, and the U.S. Army Reserve Theater Support Group (USAR TSG), the event was made possible on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marissa L. Takai, an admissions specialist at Northern Marianas College, explains NMI's application process to Relihna Iakopus, a recent graduate of Marianas High School, and her father, Pisan Peter, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Saturday, during the U.S. Army Reserve Theater Support Group's first-ever Education Fair in Saipan.

"After I became aware there would be an Education Fair in Guam, but not in Saipan, I asked my Army Reserve Director of Education, Ms. Marsha Wellein, about putting a fair together for our Soldiers, families and community members on the island so they could receive similar information from schools and the VA," said Col. Michael Phipps, USAR TSG commander. "Ms. Wellein did a great job coordinating the event."

In all, more than 170 members of the community were able to attend.

San Vicente residents Alyssa Palattao and Shirley Galvan spoke to numerous schools and even an Army recruiter to gain a better understanding of what options were available. The mother-daughter duo was excited to learn about the various opportunities.

"I'd like to go to basic training now and then finish my studies while I'm in the National Guard or the Army Reserve later." said Palattao, who is currently double majoring in nursing and liberal arts at Northern Marianas College.

"I'm just here to support her," said Galvan, Palattao's mother. "This is good because now she can find out more information and decide what she wants to do."

Relihna Iakopus, a recent graduate of Marianas High School, appreciated the college representatives for taking the time to answer her questions.

"They give you more information here than what you receive normally," said Iakopus, who is planning to attend college here for two years and then look outside of Saipan for additional education programs. "They were really helpful with the applications process for college."

The 9th Mission Support Command is a U.S. Army Reserve command under the operational control of U.S. Army, Pacific. Some of our major subordinate commands include the infamous 100th Battalion, 4-42 Infantry Regiment; the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade; the 657th Area Support Group; and the 411th Engineer Battalion. With units located in Guam, Saipan, Alaska, American Samoa, Hawaii, Japan and Korea, the 9th MSC truly embodies the spirit of our motto,"Pride of the Pacific!" For more information please contact Ms. Christina Douglas at (808) 438-1600 ext. 3114, (808) 253-8049, or at Christina.douglas1@us.army.mil. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alyssa Palattao (middle) and her mother, Shirley Galvan, listen closely to Staff Sgt. Raymond Leonguerrero, a U.S. Army Recruiter, as he explains the process of joining the Army Reserve. Palattao is hoping to join either the Army Reserve or National Guard before continuing to pursue her education goals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marsha Wellein, Army Reserve regional director of education for the Pacific and Asia, and Dr. Donna Duellberg, U.S. Coast Guard education services officer for region 14, explain the process for transferring educational benefits to Joanne Aldan. Joanne's father, Peter Aldan, previously served with the 302nd Quartermaster Company and is now planning to transfer his education benefits to his daughter.

Education Fair contacts

Did you miss out on the Education Fair? Relax! All of the representatives who attended the event are still eager to support you. Just call the representatives listed below for more information regarding their respective schools and/or programs.

David M. Larson
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(671) 472-7217
david.larson6@va.gov

Ruth Coleman
Military/Veterans Affairs
Office of the Governor, NMI
(670) 664-2650
ruthcoleman2003@yahoo.com

Dr. Donna Duellberg
U.S. Coast Guard Education Services Officer
(808) 842-2056
donna.j.duellberg@uscg.mil

Marsha D. Wellein
Army Reserve Education Services
(877) 984-8727 ext. 3176
marsha.wellein@us.army.mil

Henrique Regina
Wayland Baptist University
(808) 488-8570 ext. 225
hregina@wbu.edu

Mary Papillion
Ashford University
(808) 354-2555
mary.papillion@ashford.edu

April Brown
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
(808) 422-0835
honolulu.center@erau.edu

Alfonso D. Perry
U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting Command
(671) 647-6181
Alfonso.d.perry@uscg.mil

Staff Sgt. Raymond Q. Leon Guerrero
U.S. Army Recruiting Station
(671) 477-7330
Raymond.leonguerrero@usarec.army.mil

Vandals mar MINA recycle bin

Vandals chose to deface one of the recycle bins along Beach Road to publicize their political statements.

During one of their recent morning site inspections, employees of the Division of Environmental Quality found that one of the recycle bins made available by Mariana Islands Nature Alliance had been vandalized with spray paint.

"This is abhorrent. Many individuals and organizations have worked hard to make the bins available for the general public to use at their convenience, said MINA board chair Fran Castro. "The bin was marked with distasteful language meant to either intimidate or offend anyone who read it."

He added that MINA wants to make sure that this mischief has as little negative impact as possible, so the organization has been working expeditiously to repaint the vandalized bin.

MINA is asking anyone who has any information about this crime to share it with the police as soon as possible. The bins are part of MINA's Marine Debris Prevention program, which aims to help reduce debris on Saipan's shores and ocean and to help protect marine habitats that are at risk as a result.

The Marine Debris Prevention program is funded by a grant from NOAA, and provides bins at the following locations: Wing beach, Garapan Fishing Basin, 13 Fisherman monument, Kilili Park, Susupe Park, Sugar Dock, Laolao Dive site and Picnic area, and Obyan beach.

Many individuals, families, and businesses have become part of the program by Adopting-A-Bin and paying for one year's worth of trash collection services.

Current Adopters are: Wing Beach, Marianas Trekking and the Visitor's Channel; Garapan Fishing Basin, The Rotary Club of Saipan; 13 Fishermen Monument, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center; Kilili Park, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan; Susupe Hi-5 Susupe Park, CTSI Tan Holdings; Sugar Dock, Ideal Signs Saipan Computer Services; Laolao Dive Site, Marianas Visitor Authority; and Laolao Picnic Site and Obyan Beach, Ericco Enterprises.

In return, the Adopters logo is displayed on their bin, and they are recognized as one of Saipan's eco-friendly and community-oriented businesses.

To learn more about the Marine Debris Prevention Program or to become a member of MINA, visit www.minapacific.org for more detailed information. ***(PR)***

Macaranas in England as Student Ambassador

Saipan student Josh Macaranas left for England last June 21 as a Student Ambassador. He will travel to different parts of England including Scotland, Ireland, and Wales for 21 days.

In this trip he will learn about other cultures, engage in educational and fun activities, and meet local citizens. Student Ambassadors come from diverse backgrounds, but share common traits: a curious and adventurous spirit, an open mind and heart, the desire to learn about other cultures and people, and the belief in People to People founder President Eisenhower's vision that each person can make a difference and help to achieve peace through understanding.

Macaranas

People to People has selected Macaranas and other 35 students throughout San Diego, California to represent the United States in this program. Their clear mission is to provide students with unparalleled access to people and places beyond compare, preparing them for success in a globalized world by making friends locally and globally. Student Ambassadors visit schools, experience home stays, absorb world culture through firsthand exploration, meet with government experts, and enjoy unique insider access to significant people and places. Student Ambassadors prepare for this experience well in advance and are asked to keep a daily journal and participate fully in all activities for academic credit. Students build their leadership skills while working as a team with other students and making friends in a well-supervised environment of cultural exploration. Comparing cultures and ways of life helps students promote peace through understanding.

Macaranas and his parents would like to thank all his relatives, friends, and all the local people who have helped and assisted in the fundraising efforts for his possible travel. ***(PR)***

Business

World leaders seek common ground on crises

TORONTO (AP)—At odds over how to strengthen the global recovery, top world leaders found common ground on foreign policy Saturday, condemning North Korea for the alleged sinking of a South Korean warship and endorsing a five-year exit timetable for Afghanistan

In a joint statement, the leading eight industrial democracies also criticized both Iran and North Korea for continuing their nuclear march and called on both to heed existing United Nations resolutions.

The statement on the March sinking of the South Korean ship was not as strongly worded as the United States and some other countries had hoped. Russia was cited as a holdout against tougher language.

While earlier demonstrations had been nonviolent, black-clad protesters broke off from a larger crowd on Saturday, torching police cruisers and smashing windows with baseball bats and hammers. Some demonstrators hurled bottles at police.

AP

President Barack Obama, left, and the U.S. delegation meets with President Hu Jintao, right, of China and his delegation on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Toronto, Saturday, June 26, 2010.

"This isn't our Toronto and my response is anger," Mayor David Miller told CP24 television. "Every Torontonian should be outraged by this."

After spending Friday debating the best response to the lingering global financial crisis, the G-8 leaders—representing the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia—focused Saturday on foreign policy, where it appeared easier to reach consensus.

The Group of eight nations concluded the group's two-day meeting at a lakeside resort about 140 miles north of Toronto with a joint statement. Leaders then immediately returned to Toronto to continue their talks as part of the Group of 20, a broader meeting which includes countries with fast-growing economies such as China, India and Brazil.

US overhaul could push some trading overseas

MADRID (AP)—Will the U.S. financial overhaul push big firms to transfer business to Europe? Some say no: Europe is also working on efforts to tighten up on risk-taking, though Asia and non-EU member Switzerland still remain more loosely regulated.

Now that the bill aimed at cracking down on the abuses that caused the 2008 financial crisis has been agreed on by U.S. House and Senate negotiators, analysts are scrambling to calculate whether the new changes for regulatory regimes will disfavor lucrative activities and create an incentive to move trading desks.

At first glance, one potential competitor—the 16-country eurozone—could be seen as a less likely destination for anyone wanting to shift operations, because governments are already pledging to crack down on risk-taking bankers in the hopes of warding off more expensive bailouts. A European plan for new regulation could be in place in a month, with approval perhaps a year away.

The new government in Britain, with its City of London financial district, is also moving to levy a new tax on the assets of the biggest banks, and the outgoing government imposed a one-time 50 percent tax on outsized, unpopular bank bonuses.

So a more likely departure destination could be Asia, the thinking goes—although many officials, banks and analysts said they hadn't had a chance to read and parse the bill. Lawmakers hope the House and Senate will approve the compromise legislation by July 4.

"The possibility is pretty good they will move some of their operations outside of the United States, but it's obvious they probably won't move to London or Frankfurt. Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Zurich are the best bets," said Richard Bove, senior vice president of equity research at Rochdale Securities in Stamford, Connecticut.

"It's gonna cost them money, but they will find ways to move around the rules."

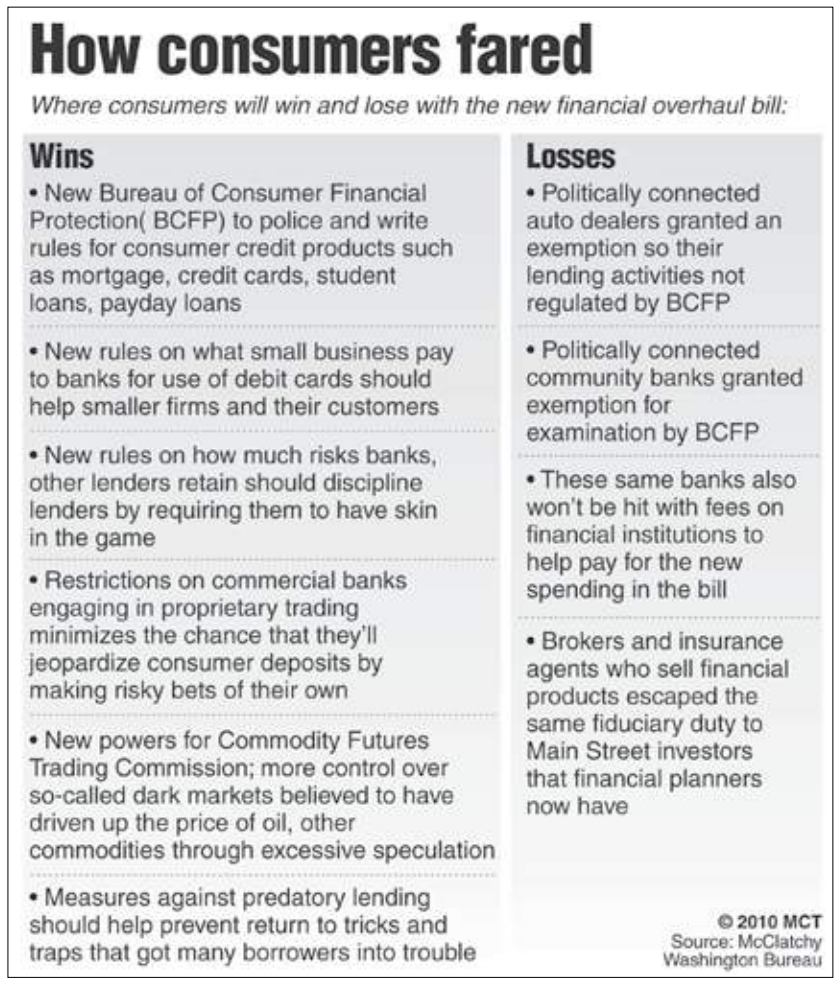
Asia comes in strong as a destination for transferring financial trading operations because of a looser regulatory environment and business-friendly reputation, some analysts said. Also, many international finance companies already have Asian divisions that can be expanded, and the technology is generally first-rate.

Another alternative is Switzerland. It has a long banking history, and though it is in the heart of Europe, it isn't a part of the European Union and isn't expected to join.

"If I was running one of the big banks, I would be saying: 'How does this affect my trading business, and where can I move that business so I can continue to operate?'" said Stephen Matlin, managing director of the Matlin Associates investment banking firm in Madrid.

"A lot of lawyers will be racking up a lot of hours on how to do this. They have been while the bill was being formed, and now they are on overdrive."

Big European banks with U.S. operations like Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest lender, said it's still too early to comment on the U.S. bill. "We're currently evaluating it," said spokesman Roland Weichert. Several European finance ministries took the same no-comment stance, but a spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron said he welcomed news of agreement on the U.S. bill.


How consumers fared
Where consumers will win and lose with the new financial overhaul bill:
Wins
• New Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection(BCFP) to police and write rules for consumer credit products such as mortgage, credit cards, student loans, payday loans
• New rules on what small business pay to banks for use of debit cards should help smaller firms and their customers
• New rules on how much risks banks, other lenders retain should discipline lenders by requiring them to have skin in the game
• Restrictions on commercial banks engaging in proprietary trading minimizes the chance that they'll jeopardize consumer deposits by making risky bets of their own
• New powers for Commodity Futures Trading Commission; more control over so-called dark markets believed to have driven up the price of oil, other commodities through excessive speculation
• Measures against predatory lending should help prevent return to tricks and traps that got many borrowers into trouble
Losses
• Politically connected auto dealers granted an exemption so their lending activities not regulated by BCFP
• Politically connected community banks granted exemption for examination by BCFP
• These same banks also won't be hit with fees on financial institutions to help pay for the new spending in the bill
• Brokers and insurance agents who sell financial products escaped the same fiduciary duty to Main Street investors that financial planners now have
© 2010 MCT
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau

Little spent on oil spill cleanup technology

ON BARATARIA BAY, La. (AP)—While oil companies have spent billions of dollars to drill deeper and farther out to sea, relatively little money and research have gone into finding new, improved ways to respond to oil spills in deepsea conditions like those in the Gulf of Mexico.

Experts say the massive Gulf spill has exposed a failure by the industry and the federal government to commit adequate resources to oil cleanup and response technology.

"Why they didn't start working on it after the (Ixtoc 1) Mexican spill in 1979 is beyond me," said Gerald Graham, president of Worldocean Consulting, an oil spill prevention and response planning firm in British Columbia. "Now they're trying to catch up."

Only a fraction of the estimated 69 million to 131.5 million gallons of oil that have spewed into the Gulf have been recovered. About 10 million gallons of oil have been burned off, and 25 million gallons of oil-water mix have been mopped up.

The mainstays of the two-month-long cleanup effort are oil booms, mechanical skimmers and oil dispersants—the same tools used to fight the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska.

Improvements to these methods have been incremental and few new ones have been developed, critics say, because oil companies have no financial incentive.

"The technology rapidly advanced for drilling, because there was money to be made," said Tim Robertson, general manager of Nuka Research & Planning, which specializes in oil spill response planning, and who worked on Seldovia, Alaska's response during the Exxon spill. "There was nothing similar that applies to oil spill recovery."

Five companies—Shell Oil, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Chevron Corp., BP America—together spent about $33.8 billion to explore for new oil and gas in the past three years, according to answers the companies provided this month to a House Energy & Commerce subcommittee.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama will resume talks on South Korea trade

TORONTO (AP)—President Barack Obama said Saturday his administration will launch talks with South Korea aimed at resolving remaining issues blocking the completion of a South Korea free trade agreement. Obama said that his goal would be to clear up the remaining issues before he visits South Korea in November and to submit the agreement to Congress for approval within a "few months" after his visit. "It is the right thing to do for our country. It is the right thing to do for Korea," Obama said with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak at his side. Obama press secretary Robert Gibbs said the deal would likely be sent to Congress early next year, although he said the pact might be sent sooner during a possible lameduck session of Congress after the November elections.

Goldman told to pay creditors in Bayou scam $20.6M

NEW YORK (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has been ordered to pay $20.6 million to scammed investors who say the investment bank should have known about the Ponzi scheme pulled off by the collapsed Bayou Hedge Funds. A three-person arbitration panel of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority held the bank's Goldman Sachs Execution & Clearing unit, formerly known as Spear Leeds & Kellogg, liable in the dispute. Stamford, Conn.-based Bayou collapsed in 2005, after the firm's then-CEO Samuel Israel III and Chief Financial Officer Daniel Marino admitted they lied about the company's profits and set up a fake accounting firm to falsify audits. The $20.6 million award represents the money Bayou deposited into its accounts at Goldman, said attorney Ross Intelisano of Rich & Intelisano LLP, a New York firm that represents investors in securities cases. Goldman handled all of the hedge fund's trading between 1999 and 2004, when it stopped trading altogether, he said.

Nation

Tropical weather is new reason to worry in Gulf

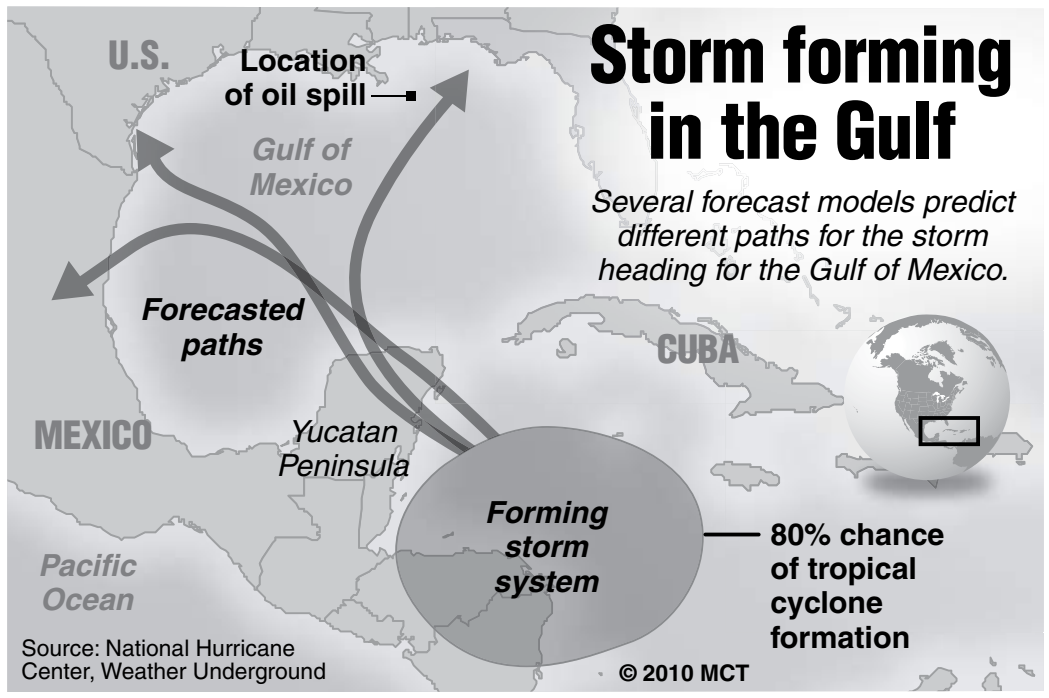
NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The logistics of containing the oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico are mind-boggling even in ideal conditions. Add a tropical storm like the one swirling in the Caribbean and things get even more complicated.

Any system with winds over 46 mph could force BP to abandon efforts to contain the flow for up to two weeks and delay the drilling of two relief wells that are the best hope of stopping it, Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen said Saturday, shortly after Alex became the first tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Forecasts show Alex churning toward Mexico and missing the northern Gulf Coast and the spill, but officials are watching closely anyway.

"We all know the weather is unpredictable and we could have a sudden, last-minute change," Allen said.

Emergency plans call for moving workers and equipment five days before gale-force winds are forecast to arrive at the half-square mile containment operation surrounding the blown-out well. Oil has been gushing since the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon exploded 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana on April 20, killing 11 workers.



Nearly 39,000 people and more than 6,000 boats are working there, in other parts of the Gulf and on land to skim and corral the oil, protect hundreds of miles of coastline and clean fouled beaches. All of those efforts would have to be suspended if a storm threatened.

At the well, the two systems that have been capturing anywhere from 840,000 to 1.2 million gallons of oil a day would be unhooked, leaving oil to gush freely into the Gulf again. No one knows exactly how much is flowing, but worst-case estimates indicate it could be as much as 2.5 million gallons a day.

Work would also stop on the two relief wells being drilled to take the pressure off the blown-out well, considered the only permanent solution. The first is on target for completion by mid-August, but there could be a significant delay if people and ships come ashore to ride out a storm.

Despite the setback a suspension would represent, "the safety of life is number one priority," Allen said.

Out in the Gulf, there is also concern about the thousands of feet of protective boom ringing numerous islands and beachfronts. Winds and waves could hurl the material, much of it soaked with oil, deep into marshes and woodlands.

"What boom they don't pick up—and there's miles and miles of it, so there's no way they can pick it all up—will end up back in the marsh," said Ivor van Heerden, former deputy director of Louisiana State University's Hurricane Center.

US teen sailor reunited with brother after ordeal

SAINT-DENIS, Reunion (AP)—Sixteen-year-old Californian sailor Abby Sunderland got a big hug from her older brother Saturday on the appropriately named Reunion Island, and again defended her family for letting her try to sail around the world alone.

Though saddened by the loss of her boat in an Indian Ocean storm, Sunderland said she isn't giving up sailing.

"I'm really disappointed that things didn't go as planned," Sunderland told reporters after coming to shore early Saturday on the remote French island of Reunion, located in the waters near southeastern Africa.

Massive waves snapped her boat's mast June 10, and she was rescued in a remote area of the southern Indian Ocean two days later by a French fishing boat. It took two weeks more at sea to reach Reunion, from which she plans to fly home Sunday.

"Any sailor that goes out to the water knows that being hit by a rogue wave is a risk, no matter where you are," said Sunderland, flanked by her 18-year-old brother Zac, who flew to Reunion to meet her. "That was a risk that I was willing to take."

Sunderland said she was as well-prepared as she could have been.

"You can't eliminate risk, you can do a lot to minimize it but it's always there," Sunderland said.

Australia and France worked together to rescue the American teenager—and they footed the hefty bills for chartering jets to find her and diverting boats to her location.

Both countries have brushed off questions about the price tag for the American teenager's solo adventure and say they have no plans to seek compensation for the maritime search and rescue operation.

Sunderland thanked everyone who helped in her rescue and acknowledged "the public debate about the cost of rescues."

"I know that the USA would do the same for a citizen of any other country as these countries did for me," she said.

Mysterious ex-con draws comparison to Jason Bourne

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities came upon a startling and mysterious scene when they showed up at a luxury apartment in Los Angeles in April while investigating a call about a gas odor.

The door was barricaded. A cache of loaded weapons, including an AK-47, sat next to a mosaic depicting the CIA seal. They found equipment for counterfeiting money. High-powered binoculars were trained on the U.S. Federal Reserve building next door.

What followed was a six-week hunt for a suspect who had slipped out of the fire escape moments earlier and whose evasiveness drew comparisons to fictional agent Jason Bourne.

Police would eventually find their man, Brian Alexik, hiding out in his girlfriend's apartment less than a mile from where he fled. But three weeks on, detectives are still trying to figure out just who he is, what plot they may have thwarted and whether he was a lone wolf or part of a larger group.

Alexik clammed up soon after he was arrested and his trail has been harder to follow because he used at least two fake names.

The 34-year-old is originally from Edison, N.J., detectives said. In 1996, he was convicted in Middlesex County on a drug-dealing charge. Five years later, he pleaded guilty to theft by deception and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, five years probation and had to pay $1,000 in restitution to a business.

AP

This series of handout images provided by the Los Angeles Police Department shows Brian Alexik.

Investigators are scouring his computer hard drives and studying the alarming contents of his penthouse as they attempt to unravel the mystery.

One bedroom had been converted into a makeshift machine shop, with tools scattered around. It appeared Alexik had been manufacturing the parts of assault rifles that ammunition magazines are slotted into, said Detective Mark Severino from the Los Angeles Police Department's major crimes unit.

Detectives found a loaded sawed-off shotgun and handgun, an AK-47, ammunition and other weapons parts including a gun barrel. Ballistics tests are currently under way.

The CIA mosaic, depicting the white, starred shield with an eagle's head on a blue background, measured about 5 feet across and investigators were impressed with the quality of the tile work. They initially thought Alexik was obsessed with the spy agency.

"But there was no other evidence in there linking the CIA or his infatuation with the CIA," Severino said. "I don't know why he would do that."

A pair of binoculars was found by a tripod at the back window overlooking the Federal Reserve, but police don't know what Alexik had been watching.

Answers might lie within the hard drives of four computers seized from the apartment and being analyzed by the Secret Service.

Police said Alexik appeared to move comfortably in social circles and most of his friends were in the cosmetics and clothing industries. Investigators found designer clothes and European shoes in his apartment, along with a photo of Alexik mugging next to U2 frontman Bono.

"He could easily fool a lot of people, he could be very charming and carries himself very well," Severino said. "There was something about him that attracted these people to him."

Alexik has pleaded not guilty to 10 felonies including weapons charges, narcotics offenses and forgery. Federal weapons charges are also expected. At a recent court hearing he appeared in a blue jail jumpsuit, his brown hair dyed to a coppery orange color and swept back across his head.

ACROSS THE NATION

DA: 4 found fatally stabbed in Pa.; man in custody

NORTHAMPTON, Pa. (AP)—Four people were found stabbed to death Saturday in a house in northeastern Pennsylvania and a suspect was in custody, authorities said. Police discovered the bodies after responding to a car crash about a half-mile from the house, Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli said. The driver was covered in so much blood that police knew it wasn't all from the car crash, Morganelli said. The driver's statements led officers to the house, Morganelli said, declining to elaborate. Three bodies were found on the first level of the home; the fourth was in the basement, he said. All were stabbed multiple times. "It's a very bloody crime scene," Morganelli said. "I've been DA 18 years and I've never seen anything like this in my life."

Children feared among several victims of NY fire

FORT EDWARD, N.Y. (AP)—Children were feared to be among the victims of a house fire that killed several people in am upstate New York village on Saturday, authorities said. The blaze happened about 6:05 a.m. in a single-family home in Fort Edward, about 45 miles north of the state capital of Albany. William Cook, a Fort Edward Fire Department spokesman, said several bodies had been recovered, but declined to say how many. "Three occupants had made their way out and indicated there were other victims still inside the house," Cook told the Glens Falls Post-Star on Saturday. "Conditions at the time were so intense that firefighters were unable to make any entry into the house despite their best efforts," he said.

Falling branch kills baby in NYC's Central Park

NEW YORK (AP)—A 6-month-old baby was killed Saturday and her mother injured by a falling tree branch at New York's Central Park Zoo. Police said the 33-year-old New Jersey woman was posing with her baby in front of the sea lion exhibit and her husband was taking their picture when the branch fell. The woman and infant were taken to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where the baby was pronounced dead. The mother was listed in stable condition. Police identified the baby as Gianna Ricciutti of Union City, N.J. Max Pulsinelli, a spokesman for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the zoo, said he could not comment on the accident beyond what the police had said.

Asia

AP

In this June 25, 2010 photo released by Korean Central News Agency via Korea News Service in Tokyo, North Korean soldiers chant anti-U.S. slogans during a rally in Pyongyang, North Korea.

NKorea to elect leaders; could set stage for heir

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Secretive North Korea said Saturday it will choose new ruling party leaders later this year—a surprise announcement that is intensifying speculation the regime is setting the stage for supreme ruler Kim Jong Il's youngest son to eventually succeed him.

The question of who will take over from the 68-year-old Kim, believed to suffer from a host of ailments, is important because the leader—as presumably his successor would—holds absolute power in the impoverished country, which has active nuclear and missile programs and regularly threatens to destroy rival South Korea.

Many fear political instability or even a power struggle if Kim, who rules North Korea through his position as chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission, were to die or become incapacitated without clearly naming a successor. Kim is also supreme commander of the Korean People's Army as well as general secretary of the Workers' Party.

Kim himself was publicly groomed for years to succeed his father—North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung, who ruled the country for nearly 50 years and led it through the 1950-53 Korean War. He died in 1994.

US to Karzai: New general won't alter Afghan plan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—America's top military officer assured President Hamid Karzai on Saturday that newly chosen NATO commander Gen. David Petraeus would pursue the policies of his ousted predecessor, whom the Afghan leader warmly praised for reducing civilian casualties.

Karzai's emphasis on preventing civilian deaths and injuries could make it difficult for NATO to relax rules of fighting that some U.S. troops say give the battlefield advantage to the Taliban. For now, however, no changes have been proposed, said a spokesman for visiting Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

During a 45-minute meeting with the Afghan leader, Mullen explained the events that surrounded President Barack Obama's decision to dismiss Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of both U.S. and NATO forces. McChrystal resigned after he and his aides were quoted in Rolling Stone magazine making disparaging remarks about top Obama administration officials guiding the civilian mission in the war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vatican, Vietnam move toward improving relations

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The pope will appoint a representative for Vietnam in a first step toward establishing diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the communist nation. Vietnam is home to 6 million Roman Catholics—the second largest Catholic community in Southeast Asia after the Philippines—but there have been tensions for decades between Catholics and the Hanoi government over church property seized by the Communists and other issues. This week a joint working group set up to improve ties met at the Vatican and agreed to appoint a nonresident representative to Vietnam, according to a Vatican statement released Saturday. Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi called it "a very concrete step toward diplomatic relations." He said the representative would be allowed to travel to Vietnam, but details were still being worked out. Usually, the Vietnamese government insists on approving most church appointments, and closely monitors religious groups in the country.

India asks Pakistan to arrest more Mumbai suspects

ISLAMABAD (AP)—India pressed Pakistan on Saturday to put more suspects on trial for alleged links to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a sign of persistent tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals who are trying to resume peace talks. But in an indication relations may be beginning to thaw, the two countries ended the day by vowing to work together to bring the masterminds of the assault to justice. Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said he had raised the issue with Pakistan's interior minister during meetings of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC, in Islamabad. "All the masterminds and handlers behind the (attacks) must be brought to justice," he said. "We must ensure that terrorists have no free run either in Pakistan or India and both countries must work together."

Tourist boats collide in Thailand, 42 injured

BANGKOK (AP)—Forty-two passengers were injured and two were missing after two boats carrying Thai and foreign tourists collided in the Gulf of Thailand on the way to a popular island beach party, police said Sunday. The speedboats were ferrying tourists to Pha-ngan island for a "full moon" party, a monthly event that attracts thousands of young, mostly Western tourists. Provincial police officer Adipong Tapee said of the 42 revelers injured, 39 were hospitalized and included four Britons, four Australians and four Singaporeans. Also among them were Irish, Norwegian, Malaysian and Thai tourists, he said. The boats collided and overturned before midnight Saturday, throwing passengers into rough seas water just off the island, the website of The Nation newspaper said.

World

Rights group criticizes Hamas treatment of Israeli

JERUSALEM (AP)—Human Rights Watch charged Friday that Hamas militants are violating the rules of war by prohibiting a captive Israeli soldier from having contact with his family and the Red Cross.

The treatment of the 23-year-old soldier, captured exactly four years ago by Hamas, is "cruel and inhuman" and matches a U.N. definition of torture because he is denied any outside contact, the U.S.-based rights group said in a statement.

Hamas-affiliated militants captured tank crewman Sgt. Gilad Schalit inside Israel in 2006 and have been holding him since then in Gaza, the coastal Palestinian territory controlled by the militant Islamic organization.

Negotiations over a deal that would see Israel win Schalit's release by freeing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including militants convicted of deadly attacks against civilians, have stalled.

Hamas released a video of Schalit in October 2009 to prove the soldier was alive. His current condition is unknown.

The statement from Human Rights Watch notes Israeli violations of Palestinian rights, including limitations on visitation rights for some Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, but says violations by one side "do not justify violations by the other."

Schalit has dual French-Israeli citizenship and on Friday French President Nicolas Sarkozy released a letter he had addressed to the abducted soldier's parents.

Kyrgyz leaders take risky bet on referendum

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Kyrgyzstan holds a referendum on a new constitution Sunday, a risky gamble amid deadly ethnic tensions but one the interim government hopes will legitimize its power until new elections in October.

The Central Asian nation was on a high security alert for the vote, deploying almost 8,000 police officers and an equal number of defense volunteers to keep the peace. Checkpoints were set up throughout the capital, Bishkek, and in Osh and Jalal-Abad, two southern cities wracked by ethnic purges against minority Uzbeks earlier this month.

The vote—supported by the U.N., the U.S. and Russia—is seen as an important step on the road to democracy for the interim government. Still, questions remain about how successfully it can be held just weeks after violence left hundreds of Uzbeks dead and forced up to 400,000 to flee.

The proposed constitution—the seventh that the former Soviet republic has seen in its 19 years of independence—does little to address the causes of the violence that swept the south.

The document that has been touted by Kyrgyz officials as a transition from despotism to the region's first parliamentary democracy looks strikingly similar to the constitution drawn up by former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was ousted in a bloody revolution three months ago.

Tropical Storm Alex soaks Belize, Mexico's Yucatan

BELIZE CITY (AP)—Tropical Storm Alex made landfall late Saturday on Belize's coast, where hundreds of tourists and residents fled low-lying islands ahead of the storm's arrival. Besides Belize, Alex's torrential rains were drenching Guatemala and Mexico's resort-studded Caribbean coast, where beachgoers were warned to stay out of the water because of rough surf.

The storm, with maximum sustained winds of about 60 mph (95 kph), was expected to weaken as it pushed its way across the Yucatan Peninsula then regain strength later Sunday as it entered the Gulf of Mexico. Alex appeared headed west of the massive oil spill in parts of the Gulf, but meteorologists warned that a storm's track can quickly change.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Alex was centered about 20 miles (30 kms) northwest of Belize City late Saturday evening.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Belize and Mexico's entire Caribbean coastline up to Cancun.

Belize officials opened storm shelters in the island tourist resort of San Pedro, as some 1,400 people fled for the mainland by plane and by boat. Torrential downpours and heavy winds were reported on offshore islands Saturday afternoon.

WORLD BRIEFS

Vandals mar summit protests in Toronto

TORONTO (AP)—Black-clad demonstrators broke off from a crowd of peaceful protesters at the global economic summit in Toronto Saturday, torching police cruisers and smashing windows with baseball bats and hammers. Police arrested more than 150 people. Police used shields, clubs, tear gas and pepper spray to push back the rogue protesters who tried to head south toward the security fence surrounding the perimeter of the Group of 20 summit site. Some demonstrators hurled bottles at police. "We have never seen that level of wanton criminality and vandalism and destruction on our streets," Toronto police chief Bill Blair said. The roving band wearing black balaclavas shattered shop windows for blocks, including at police headquarters, then shed some of their black clothes, revealing other garments, and continued to rampage through downtown Toronto.

Chavez meets with Syria's Assad in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez met with Syrian President Bashar Assad on Saturday and called on Latin America and the Arab world to fight what he called America's imperialist and capitalist interests abroad. During a meeting at Venezuela's presidential palace, Chavez told Assad it was an honor to host the Syrian leader on his first visit to Latin America. Chavez presented Assad with a gold-plated replica of a sword that once belonged to South American independence hero Simon Bolivar—the inspiration for his "Bolivarian Revolution." The two leaders signed an agreement to create a $100 million trade and development fund. "Arab civilization and our civilization, the Latin American one, are being summoned in this new century to play the fundamental role of liberating the world, saving the world from the imperialism and capitalist hegemony that threaten the human species," Chavez said. "Syria and Venezuela are at the vanguard of this struggle."

Iran cancels plan to send ship to Gaza

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran will not be sending a blockade-busting ship to Gaza in defiance of Israeli warnings, an Iranian lawmaker said Saturday, citing Israeli "restrictions." Mahmoud Ahmadi Bighash told the semiofficial ISNA news agency that instead of sending a ship, an Iranian delegation of lawmakers would travel to Lebanon and sail on one of the aid ships expected to head to Gaza from there. The Iranian ship called "Infants of Gaza" had been expected to sail Sunday for Gaza carrying 1,100 tons of relief supplies and 10 pro-Palestinian activists but plans were canceled "due to restrictions imposed by the occupying Zionist regime," Bighash said. Iran made the announcement Tuesday prompting Israel to warn its archenemy to drop the plan.

Health & Fitness

Soccer is a life saver for HIV positive ladies

By ANGUS SHAW
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP
In this Friday, June 25, 2010 photo, Members of the Positive Ladies Football Club, during a practice session in Epworth about 30 kilometres south east of Harare. The team consists of women who are infected with the HIV/AIDS virus and soccer has become more than just a game but a life saver.

DOMBORAMWARI, Zimbabwe (AP)—For members of the Positive Ladies Football Club, playing soccer is much more than just a way to have fun.

All its members are women infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. In this impoverished district outside the Zimbabwe capital, having an outlet and a bond with teammates has helped the players keep up their spirits as they fight the disease and the stigma that goes with it.

And now is a special time for the club. It fields a team known as the ARV Swallows (ARV is an abbreviation for antiretroviral medication) which will compete in a tournament in neighboring South Africa while the World Cup is being staged.

The Swallows have already triumphed in one local women's league, and they've kicked stigma and prejudice off the field at their home ground at Zinyengere government school, about 20 miles southeast of Harare, said Ivy Choga, a nurse with Medecins sans Frontieres, or Doctors without Borders, the international medical humanitarian organization.

In this southern African nation, where nearly a quarter of the adult population is estimated to be infected with the virus that causes AIDS, people with the disease were long shunned in local communities. Infected women were banished from families.

"They were hidden away and getting very sick. Families were planning burials," Choga said.

In Domboramwari, or Stones of God in the local Shona language—named after the district's bleak landscape of granite rocks—the "Positive Ladies" on Saturday were helping a group of their members prepare for a trip they once never dared dream of.

The Swallows are competing in a 5-a-side tournament of HIV positive women in South Africa scheduled July 2 and organized on the sidelines of the World Cup by Doctors Without Borders from its HIV treatment projects in southern Africa.

They will be led by coach Jonas Kapakasa, a former goalkeeper in a Zimbabwe club side.

"Everyone is very excited. We're ready to show what we can do," Kapakasa told The Associated Press.

He said he canceled practice Wednesday after a child of one of the Swallows became ill. Teammates rallied around to help get the child to the district hospital.

"It was a real team effort," he said. "I'm so proud."

AIDS groups have warned that foreign funding for life saving medication is diminishing. The so-called "Halftime" tournament in Johannesburg calls on international donors not to cut back on antiretroviral funding when the fight against the disease is only half over.

"Imagine the referee stopping the match against HIV/AIDS halfway through. ... Nobody calls it quits at halftime," Doctors Without Borders said in a statement.

In this arid Zimbabwe district, with regular power outages and no electricity at all in some parts, unemployment and food shortages are acute. Players in the Swallows grow and sell their own vegetables, some make basic handicrafts and artificial flowers from grass and scrap materials and others receive food handouts from independent charities. They receive their medication from the Dutch branch of Doctors Without Borders.

Annafields Phiri formed the team in 2008 after a Harare businessman launched a women's football league to promote his skin and hair care products.

Choga, the nurse, said regular exercise strengthened the women and helped them throw off years of depression, discrimination and isolation. Singing and dancing goes along with their practices three times a week.

There have been injuries on the field, but neighborhood skeptics who now turn out to support the Swallows had learned more about the risks of HIV infection from unprotected sex, often a taboo subject in Zimbabwe—and how the risk from cuts and bruises is minimal, Choga said.

Defender Nyarai Bengina, 33, said being diagnosed HIV positive in 2006 was the saddest time of her life. Seeing her drawn body, wracked by tuberculosis and near death, neighbors had taunted her to take poison to end it once and for all.

Now the beaming, smiling mother of three will soon be enjoying soccer in Johannesburg and rooting for Argentina.

"We've got our lives back," she said.

Small fraction of Americans meet salt guidelines

MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Most U.S. adults should eat less than a teaspoon of salt each day, but a new government report says just 1 in 18 meet that goal.

"This is not good news," said Janelle Peralez Gunn of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lead author of a new study released Thursday.

ON THE NET
- The CDC report: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr

Health officials currently say no adult should eat more than a teaspoon of salt each day. They go on to advise that 70 percent of adults—including people with high blood pressure, all African-Americans and everyone over 40—should actually limit their salt intake to a more restrictive two-thirds of a teaspoon.

Sodium increases the risk of high blood pressure, which is major cause of heart disease and stroke. Salt—or sodium chloride—is the main source of sodium for most people.

Overall, only 1 in 10 adults meet the teaspoon standard, said the CDC study. But for those who should be even stingier, only 1 in 18 manage to do it.

The research repeated what others have found, that the vast majority of dietary salt comes from processed and restaurant foods. And it concluded that salt was most commonly found in cold cuts and other meats, and in baked goods and other items counted as grain-based products.

"It's not a matter of Americans taking a salt shaker and adding salt to their food," said Linda Van Horn, a Northwestern University medical school professor who chairs the American Heart Association's Nutrition Committee.

Salt reduction has become a recent focus of public health campaigns. New York City, the heart association and nearly three dozen other groups have been trying to persuade food manufacturers and chain restaurants to reduce salt content by more than 50 percent over the next 10 years. The CDC and federal health agencies also have had sodium-reduction talks with food companies.

The CDC study is based on a national survey of nearly 4,000 adults ages 20 and older in the years 2005 and 2006. They had their blood pressure taken and answered questions about what they ate.

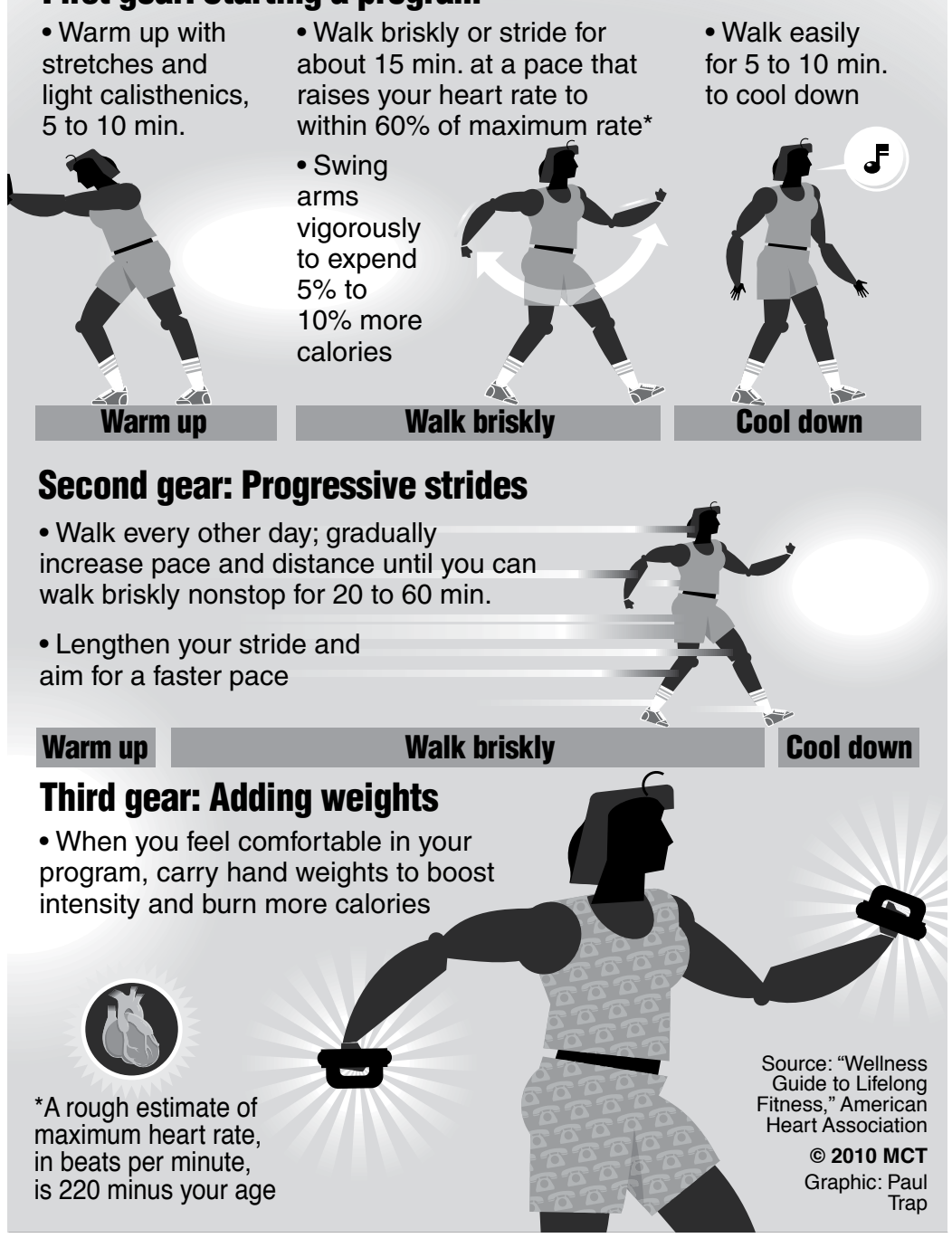
The participants tended to consume roughly 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt each day. People in the more restrictive group—those at increased risk of high blood pressure—were eating twice as much as they should have, the study found.

One in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure, and the government estimates that nine in 10 will develop it in their lifetime.

Personal Trainer

Walking for aerobic benefit

Moderate walking gives real health benefits, but to improve your heart-lung capacity, you need to upshift to aerobic walking.


First gear: Starting a program
• Warm up with stretches and light calisthenics, 5 to 10 min.
• Walk briskly or stride for about 15 min. at a pace that raises your heart rate to within 60% of maximum rate*
• Swing arms vigorously to expend 5% to 10% more calories
• Walk easily for 5 to 10 min. to cool down
Warm up
Walk briskly
Cool down
Second gear: Progressive strides
• Walk every other day; gradually increase pace and distance until you can walk briskly nonstop for 20 to 60 min.
• Lengthen your stride and aim for a faster pace
Warm up
Walk briskly
Cool down
Third gear: Adding weights
• When you feel comfortable in your program, carry hand weights to boost intensity and burn more calories
*A rough estimate of maximum heart rate, in beats per minute, is 220 minus your age
Source: "Wellness Guide to Lifelong Fitness," American Heart Association
© 2010 MCT
Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

Prince Harry throws 1st pitch at Mets-Twins game

NEW YORK (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry showed he can shoot. On the second day of his U.S. visit, New Yorkers got to see his arm.

After firing an M4 rifle during a training exercise Friday at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Harry threw out the first pitch at Saturday's New York Mets game against the Minnesota Twins.

Wearing a white T-shirt and blue Mets cap, he sheepishly waved to the crowd as he stood on the top of the mound. He then shook his right arm several times and did a full body jiggle to loosen up.

The 25-year-old prince threw with some zip to Mets catcher Rod Barajas, who stood from his crouch to catch the throw that crossed the plate.

Mets knuckleballer R.A. Dickey gave Harry throwing advice about a half-hour before the game.

Earlier Saturday, he visited UNICEF, where staff members briefed him on the U.N. agency's use of mapping technology to respond to crises such as the earthquake in Haiti.

The prince, the younger son of Charles, Prince of Wales, and the late Diana, Princess of Wales, began his three-day visit Friday at West Point to look for ways British and U.S. veterans charities can work together to support wounded troops returning home.

Harry, third in line to the British throne, arrived by helicopter uniformed in camouflage. He hopped on the back of a Humvee, swapped his light blue beret for a helmet and headed out for live-fire exercises on the firing range and field exercises in nearby woods.

Harry fired an M4 along with a team of West Point cadets involved in a firing range training exercise. He and the cadets shot at pop-up silhouette targets anywhere from 50 to 300 meters away.

AP

Britain's Prince Harry gestures as he walks on to the field for before throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before a baseball game between the New York Mets and the Minnesota Twins Saturday, June 26, 2010 in New York.

Crouched in the gravel and then later lying down, Harry had to hit the enemy targets but refrain from shooting at the yellow-banded friendlies. Col. Casey Haskins said he did quite well, hitting multiple targets.

The prince changed into a dark suit for a reception later Friday for British and American veterans and their families at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

Harry said it was "a bit of a pinch yourself moment" to stand on the flight deck of the Intrepid, a historic aircraft carrier docked on Manhattan's West Side. He said Britain and the U.S. must forge stronger links between their military veterans.

"We in Britain can learn from the American culture of charity and from the great pioneering work in the fields of care, prosthetics and rehabilitation of your universities, hospitals and other organizations," he said. "In turn, I hope we can offer some inspiring examples of our own."

Harry attended the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst and is a lieutenant in the British Army. He served in Afghanistan in 2008 as a battlefield air controller until a media leak cut his time short.

He has made no secret of his desire to return to the front lines, and the decision last month by British Army commanders to train him as an Apache attack helicopter pilot could make that more likely.

Int'l ballet gold: Chinese, Portuguese, S. Korean

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Dancers from China, Portugal and South Korea received top awards Friday at the two-week USA International Ballet Competition in Mississippi.

A Portuguese woman, Catarina Moreira, received a choreography award for a powerful contemporary piece performed Thursday night by one of her students, 16-year-old Marcelino Sambe of Portugal, the junior division men's gold medalist.

Sambe received an extended standing ovation for his intense, percussive interpretation of the piece about how each person believes he suffers more than others.

"The dance is an art, it's not a sport. I think we should preserve the heart of the dance, not who does more pirouettes and moves," Sambe said after winning his gold medal Friday.

More than 100 dancers from 31 countries competed, with 15- to 18-year-olds in the junior division and 19- to 26-year-olds in the senior division. Finalists performed classical and contemporary pieces to demonstrate their range of technique and stage presence.

The senior women's gold medal was awarded to Cao Shuci of China. The junior women's gold medal was awarded to Ji Young Chae of South Korea.

The 13 jurors—each from a different country—did not award a gold medal in the senior men's division.

"We didn't feel there was anyone of high enough caliber, and the points indicated that as well," said jury chairman Bruce Marks of the United States, a former American Ballet Theatre dancer.

Cao said through an interpreter Friday that technique alone is not enough to be a successful artist; she also wants touch people's emotions.

"This is just a beginning," she said. "I love to dance but I will be very careful to make every step in my career."

The only medalist from the U.S. was 15-year-old Derek Dunn, who was awarded the junior men's bronze. Dunn grew up in the Baltimore area dancing, playing soccer and swimming. In the past few months, he has narrowed his focus to dance and is a student at The Rock School in Philadelphia.

"This medal hopefully will be kind of the start to my career somehow," said Dunn, who's been dancing eight years. "I'm not sure what company, but I know I want to be in a major ballet company one day."

The USA International Ballet Competition first took place in Jackson in 1979, and has been held in the city every four years since 1982. It has helped launch careers of dancers such as Jose Manuel Carreno, who won the grand prix in Jackson in 1990 and is now a principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre in New York.

Medalists received cash awards of up to $8,000, and three received contracts to dance with companies in the United States.

Japan court blocks 'The Cove' protests at theater

TOKYO (AP)—A court Friday ordered protesters to keep away from a theater that plans to show the Oscar-winning documentary "The Cove," about a dolphin hunt in a Japanese village.

The movie shows scenes of the bloody but legal dolphin slaughter filmed using hidden cameras, and portrays local fisherman as rough goons. Nationalist groups say it shouldn't be shown because it is anti-Japanese, distorts the truth and has connections with an anti-whaling group labeled a terrorist organization by the government.

The dispute over the film developed into a debate over free speech after initial screenings were canceled by theaters to avoid noisy protests. After prominent publishers and directors voiced their concern, at least 22 theaters have now agreed to show it.

Yokohama New Theater, a small cinema in a city next to Tokyo which plans to show the film from July 3, has been targeted repeatedly by protesters with bullhorns and signs. There were no protests there Friday after the main group responsible received the court order.

The order was issued by the Yokohama regional court at the request of the theater, according to Miyuki Takamatsu, a spokeswoman for Unplugged, the movie's Japanese distributor.

Unplugged requested and received a similar order from a Tokyo court earlier this year after repeated protests at its headquarters and at the home of its president, she said.

Nationalists have said the film has connections to Sea Shepherd, an anti-whaling group that has been labeled a terrorist organization by Tokyo for its militant actions against Japanese whalers. The movie includes a sympathetic interview with Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson.

In the version of the movie intended for release in Japan, a disclaimer has been added saying that the data presented in it were gathered by and are the responsibility of the film's creators. The movie cites information about mercury levels in dolphins and falsely labeled dolphin meat that has been challenged by government officials.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Andres Tudela Camacho

of Papago was born to life on October 17, 1938, and was called to eternal rest on June 21, 2010 at the age of 71

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: Sebastian Taimanao Camacho and Dolores Tudela Camacho

Brothers: Santiago T. Camacho, Froilan T. Camacho, Vicente T. Camacho

Sister-in-laws: Josepha M. Camacho, Marcela N. Camacho, Rosa A. Camacho

Daughter-in-law: Sommai L. Camacho

Survived by:

Brother: David Tudela Camacho and Family

Wife: Andrea Blas Cabrera (Echang Potu), Aida A. Camacho

Children and Families:

Oscar C. and Arinta J. Camacho (Dominic, Jay, Dimitrios, Dylan, D' Faustina)
Edward C. and Henoleen S. Camacho (Winfred (Kobe), Chinnelle, Yolani)
Fred C. Camacho and Anna V. Yamada (Frederick, Toni Kasilyn, Kadi)
Sebastian C. and Yuriko Camacho (Justine, Jotham, Joshua, Jonah)
Francisco C. and Eloise G. Camacho (Beaudy (Dazz Koray), Francisco, Lucand, Koel)
Froilan C. Camacho (Michael, Andrea, Andres, Jose)
Paul C. Camacho and Ida S. DeBrum
Judi C. and Joe P. Fujihira (Francine (Leighton), Vanessa, Ashley, Byron)
Diony A. and Joyce R. Camacho (Jonathan, Jennifer, Diony Jr., †Joseph Julian T. Reyes)
Dionisio A. Camacho (Desiree, Daisylyn)
Michelle A. Camacho (Caleb Peter)

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.

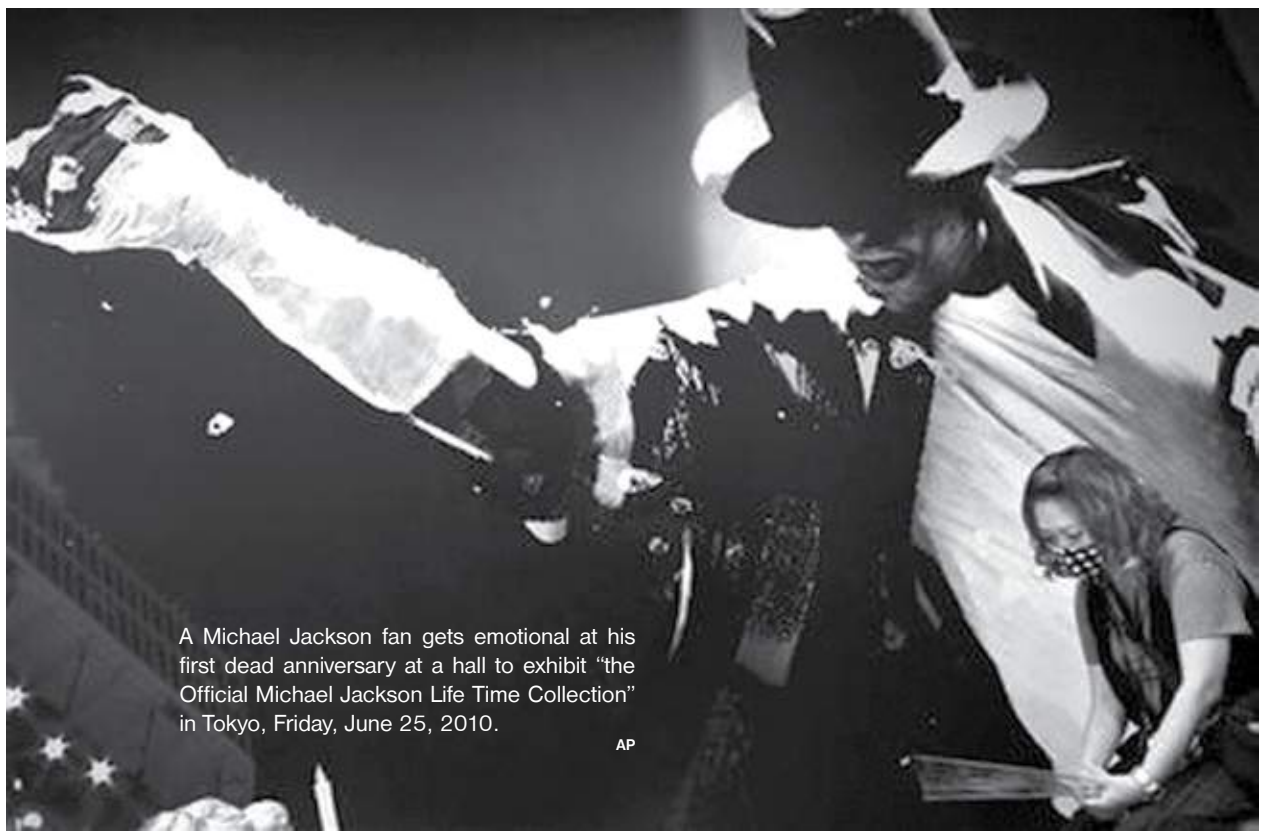
Nightly mass is being offered at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, June 22, 2010 excluding Sunday, June 27, 2010 mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010. His remains will depart C.H.C. at 7:30 a.m. and be brought to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
Interment will follow immediately at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I familia.

Jackson: A tribute from fans, a lawsuit from dad



A Michael Jackson fan gets emotional at his first dead anniversary at a hall to exhibit "the Official Michael Jackson Life Time Collection" in Tokyo, Friday, June 25, 2010.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On the day Michael Jackson's fans paid their respects with tears, tributes, songs and dance, Jackson's father filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the doctor charged with giving his son a lethal dose of drugs.

Joe Jackson's visit to a federal courtroom in Los Angeles, while thousands of people were filing through the gates of a nearby cemetery to mourn the man they call the King of Pop, punctuated once again just how brilliantly the star that was Michael Jackson's life had burned, and how suddenly it had been extinguished.

"The King of Pop, Michael Jackson, Gone Too Soon," proclaimed a 100-foot banner spread out near the entrance to Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale on Friday to mark the first anniversary of Jackson's death.

"He's been my idol all my life since I can remember. I feel like I haven't had closure," said Erick Dominguez, who traveled more than 80 miles from his home in Victorville to the Los Angeles suburb to pay his respects. As he spoke, the 37-year-old sales representative, his eyes hidden by sunglasses, began to weep. He was joined by mourners from Italy, France, Spain, Norway and numerous other parts of the world.

Several of Jackson's relatives also visited the cemetery, going to its mausoleum, where Jackson's body is entombed and which is off limits to the public. Brother Tito shook hands with fans as he arrived, and brother Jermaine rolled down a window and waved as the family left in a fleet of luxury vehicles. As they departed, fans released a flock of white doves.

"It was a beautiful sight," said one of the mourners, Courtland Llauger.

In Jackson's hometown of Gary, Ind., hundreds cheered as the entertainer's mother, Katherine Jackson, unveiled a memorial to her son in the front yard of the modest home where he grew up.

"This past year has been very hard on the family," she told the crowd. "If it wasn't for the help of all of you, we wouldn't have made it through."

Jackson died June 25, 2009 at age 50, just before he was to begin a comeback tour. Dr. Conrad Murray has pleaded not guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter. Authorities say Murray provided the entertainer with a mix of sedatives—including the powerful anesthetic propofol—that killed him.

Jackson's father filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the physician Friday, seeking more than $75,000. The complaint accuses Murray of professional negligence and contends he tried to conceal his administration of propofol after Jackson's death. Propofol is normally administered only in hospital settings. Murray had been providing it in the bedroom of Jackson's rented mansion in Los Angeles to help him sleep after the physically grueling rehearsals the performer had been putting himself through to get in shape for his comeback.

Murray attorney Charles Peckham said in a statement he expected his client's innocence to be "proven in a court of law."

Away from the courtroom, numerous tributes to Jackson, both poignant and joyful, unfolded throughout the day.

In Japan, hundreds met at Tokyo Tower to honor Jackson with a candlelight vigil, a gospel concert and more. Some got a chance to see some of his possessions, including costumes from his tours and even a 1967 Rolls-Royce Phantom that he used to drive around Los Angeles.

"I don't know what to say. Seeing all his things makes it all come back to me," said Yumiko Sasaki, a 48-year-old Tokyo office worker who said she has been a Jackson fan since she was 12. "It makes me so sad to think that he is gone. He was wonderful."

Jackson's '84 Victory Tour glove sells for $190K

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Bidders from around the world bought up Michael Jackson memorabilia worth nearly $1 million at an auction on the anniversary of his death, including $190,000 for the Swarovski-crystal-studded glove he wore on his 1984 Victory Tour.

The bidding that began Friday on more than 200 items was "unlike anything we've ever experienced," said Darren Julien of Julien's Auctions, which ran the auction at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

Some items, like the glove, brought 10 times more than their estimated value, he said.

"It just shows you Michael Jackson is the most sought after and most collectible celebrity of all time. It was just phenomenal," Julien told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"People flew in from Asia, Russia, all over. Now that he's gone, we now realize the true legend we lost," said Julien, who has not had a similar auction in his 15 years in the business. He predicted the sales would easily top $1 million by the time the auction wrapped up Sunday.

The glove had been expected to sell for between $20,000 and $30,000. The $190,000 sale price included the buyer's premium of $30,000, a standard industry fee that goes to the auction house, Julien said.

The winning bidder was Wanda Kelley of Los Angeles, who also bought a number of Jackson's albums at the auction, the Las Vegas Sun reported. She said she was prepared to go higher if necessary.

"Let's just say I wasn't walking out of here without that glove," she said.

A pair of Jackson's stage-worn loafers that were listed as worth $2,000 to $3,000 went for $90,000.

The custom jacket that the pop singer was wearing during his interview with Barbara Walters was listed at $6,000 to $8,000. It sold for $120,000.

A white Fedora sold for $56,250. One of the last autographs Jackson signed, and dated June 24, 2009, in his handwriting, went for $21,000.

Non-Jackson items that sold at the auction included:

■ A Jimi Hendrix Fender guitar for $180,000.

■ Prince's "Purple Rain" handwritten lyrics, which sold for $66,000.

■ An Elvis Presley shirt worn in 1956 on "The Milton Berle Show," which fetched $61,200.

Hitler film exposes India's interest in dictator

NEW DELHI (AP)—When word spread this month that Bollywood planned a movie called "Dear Friend Hitler," screenwriter Nalin Singh was genuinely shocked it stirred even a small controversy.

The media expressed disdain, Jewish groups were horrified and his lead actor—though a bit baffled by the reaction—quit.

While such a response would seem, if anything, understated in much of the world, Singh had reason to believe his film would not generate even a ripple of scandal in India.

Here, Hitler is not viewed as the personification of evil, but with an attitude of morally ambiguous fascination. He is seen as a management guru—akin to Machiavelli or Sun Tzu—by business students, and an object of wonder by people craving order amid the chaos of India.

"Indians still have a curiosity about Hitler. The Western audience has seen a lot of films on Hitler, but there was no Hindi film on him," says Singh, explaining the choice of subject for his first film, which he hopes will be made by the end of the year.

Without a major role in World War II, India does not have the intense feelings toward the Nazis that many other nations have. In Bollywood movies, characters routinely call each other "Hitler" as a minor insult, referring to a nagging wife or annoying boss.

AP

In this Tuesday, June 23, 2010 photo, Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf is on display at a roadside book shop in New Delhi, India.

But Indians also have a strange fascination with the Nazi dictator, whose brutal dictatorship and slaughter of 6 million Jews has made his name synonymous with the devil in the West.

A few years ago a restaurant named Hitler's Cross opened in the suburbs of Mumbai complete with posters of the dictator and swastikas for decor. Protests from Jewish groups forced the owners to change the name to The Cross Cafe.

A home furnishings company was forced to withdraw a line of bedspreads called NAZI amid similar complaints.

"Mein Kampf," Hitler's semi-autobiographical book outlining his anti-Semitic ideology, sells thousands of copies a year in the upmarket, air-conditioned bookstores of New Delhi.

The book, free of copyright in India, is printed by over half a dozen publishers. It is even a staple amid the small stack of top-selling books hawked by young boys at traffic lights in India's cities.

The book once helped inspire India's far right Hindu politicians, who often expressed open admiration for Hitler, but it is now appealing to a new generation of less political readers.

"It's basically the young crowd. The rebellious," says Anuj Bahri, who runs Bahrisons, a popular book store in New Delhi's posh Khan Market.

"It's a constant seller and sells one, two copies a day," he says, adding that part of the draw for its young readership seems to lie in the fact that Hitler "defied the whole world and challenged the whole world." Sociologist Ashish Nandy says a confluence of reasons explains why Indians are drawn to both the man and the book.

For some readers, modern India is a country in chaos and, there is a "certain admiration" for Hitler and his extreme authoritarianism. There is also India's colonial inheritance when "every enemy of Britain was a friend of India and at least potentially a good person," he says, adding that among today's young readers "there is kind a vague sense that it's about a person who gave a tough time to the Brits."

Tarun Singhal, a management student at New Delhi's prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, who first read the book as a young undergraduate, says for him the book is uplifting.

"(It) serves as a reminder that nothing is unachievable," he said, adding that he is able to separate that message from the book's pervasive anti-Semitic ideology.

India's interest in Hitler, mirrors Nazi Germany's in India as the home of the purportedly pure Aryan race—which formed the basis of the Nazis' notions of racial supremacy. The Nazis also co-opted the ancient Hindu symbol of the swastika for the Nazi Party flag and arm bands.

When news about the Indian film on Hitler came out earlier this month, it might have been a step too far.

The title is a reference to two letters written by Indian independence leader Mohandas Gandhi to Hitler.

The first written in 1939 asked the Nazi leader to help prevent a "war which may reduce humanity to the savage state."

India's tiny Jewish community condemned the film as insensitive and the lead actor Anupam Kher dropped out saying he didn't want to upset anyone "It's very hurtful," says Jonathan Solomon of the India Jewish Federation, of the film's title. "The Jews in India were not the victims of anti-Semitism or the Holocaust, but we feel for our brother Jews and this is very hurtful to Jews all over the world."

But Singh is determined to see his script—which he says juxtaposes the personality of the German dictator against India's Gandhi—on celluloid and has the support of the film's producers. If he's able to persuade Kher to return to the project or find a replacement, the film should be ready by the end of the year, he says.

Kylie Minogue sells halter dress for AIDS charity

PARIS (AP)—Kylie Minogue proved that in the name of charity, she's capable of selling the shirt off her back.

The petite Australian pop star auctioned off her black halter dress at a swanky AIDS benefit Friday night on the margins of Paris' menswear week. The Jean Paul Gaultier number, which bristled with little plissed spikes, fetched euro20,000 ($24,770).

Other lots included a lambskin vest by California-born designer Rick Owens and a 1980 photograph by Robert Mapplethorpe titled "Leather Crotch."

The soiree raised $180,000 for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), a nonprofit organization that supports HIV/AIDS research.

Held in Chez Maxim's restaurant and club in central Paris, the dinner auction attracted top names in the French fashion scene, including underwear designer Chantal Thomass, model Mark Vanderloo and Gaultier—the one-time enfant terrible who gave the world Madonna's pointy cone bra.

AP

Australian singer Kylie Minogue attends to the Amfar dinner, in Paris, Friday, June 25, 2010.

AP

This Aug. 13, 2006 file photo shows Farrah Fawcett on the red carpet before Comedy Central's "Roast of William Shatner," in Los Angeles.

Stewart, O'Neal dedicate Farrah Fawcett Foundation

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Farrah Fawcett's closest friends marked the first anniversary of her death by dedicating a cancer-research foundation in her name.

Alana Stewart, Ryan O'Neal, Tatum O'Neal and Redmond O'Neal were among guests at an intimate gathering Friday at the new offices of the Farrah Fawcett Foundation, which funds alternative cancer research and treatment methods and aims to improve the quality of life of those with the disease.

Fawcett, the "Charlie's Angels" star who detailed her battle with anal cancer in the 2009 documentary, "Farrah's Story," died at 62 on June 25, 2009.

Stewart said Fawcett started her namesake foundation during her own struggle with cancer, and Stewart was determined to keep her friend's efforts alive.

"If I can help carry on Farrah's mission for the foundation, it's an honor for me," Stewart said. "I feel almost like she's a guardian angel watching over me, and I feel like she's smiling down on us and very happy that she died for a cause."

"She felt that she could help a lot of people and she could give a lot of people inspiration, courage and hope," Stewart continued. "That's why she did the documentary and that's why she started the foundation."

Ryan O'Neal said the first anniversary of Fawcett's death had been an emotional one for his family. Their 25-year-old son, Redmond, who has been dogged by drug problems and was jailed during his mother's final days, visited Fawcett's grave for the first time Friday.

The soft-spoken redhead said he is now clean and sober.

Ryan O'Neal said he still worried about his son, especially since Fawcett is gone: "He lost her, and he's fragile."

But, O'Neal said, her mission will continue.

"Farrah was extremely loved around the world," he said. "We will try to keep that feeling in play."

Sister's backyard leisure is smoking, not pulling, weed

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Years ago you gave me some good advice, and now I have a new issue I need help with. My sister, "Rhonda," and her husband—both in their mid-50s—will be visiting us again this summer. The last time they stayed, we caught them in our backyard smoking pot.

My husband and I were shocked and upset about it, and so were our teenage children. This was a violation of the rules in our home and set a poor example for our children, but I was too spineless to say anything.

I want to tell Rhonda and her husband before this next visit that drugs are absolutely not allowed on our property, but my mother wants me to remain silent because she's worried they'll stop visiting us unless I keep my mouth shut.

I want to see Rhonda, but not at the cost of compromising my principles. And I am confused and hurt that even my mother doesn't seem to care how I feel about how unacceptable this behavior is in my own home. Am I being unfair? Help!

SPINELESS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SPINELESS: Your mother is wrong. It is not "unfair" to set standards in your home to teach your children the difference between right and wrong. If you don't speak up, your sister will assume—and rightly so—that you have no objection to her using an illegal substance on your property. What happened last year was unfortunate. But if you stay silent and it happens again, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old girl and a freshman in high school. My relationship with my mother is very good. I can talk to her about everything and anything.

My problem is she won't allow me to date as long as I live under her roof. She says teenagers are too young to date. I have recently developed feelings for a boy in a few of my classes, but I am prevented from pursuing a relationship with him. I feel sad and empty because of this.

My mother has no reason to keep me from dating other than her belief that I'm too young. I am a good kid and get straight A's. Friends tell me to date behind her back, which I don't believe in. Mom is very stubborn, but so am I. Any thoughts, Abby?

JERSEY GIRL

DEAR JERSEY GIRL: Yes. A parent who prevents her daughter from dating as long as she lives under her mother's roof and expects that when she moves out—presumably at 18—she will automatically be prepared for the dating scene, is delusional.

If your mother prefers that you not date one-on-one at 15, she should consider allowing you to go out in groups, as many teens do these days. Enlist the help of an adult female relative or one of her friends to intercede for you, and perhaps she'll relent.

DEAR ABBY: Why are some women so shallow that they won't date a man who is going bald? I mean, they do not even make the time to get to know us. They just turn us down.

Are there women out there who like men who are bald or getting there?

SMOOTH-HEADED IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR SMOOTH-HEADED: Yes, there are. They're the smart ones. This would include Heidi Klum (who is married to Seal), Demi Moore (who was married for a number of years to Bruce Willis), Mrs. Howie Mandel, Mrs. Chris Daughtry—and all the women who are chasing Tyson Beckford.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Newly rescued Chihuahua takes 'ugliest dog' title

PETALUMA, Calif. (AP)—A Chihuahua's oddly curved back and legs and closed-up left eye earned the 4-year-old rescue dog top honors at the World's Ugliest Dog contest at a Northern California fair on Friday.

Sporting a gray, brown and black coat, Princess Abby Francis beat a rough-looking slate of candidates for the prize, including Pabst, a teeth-bearing boxer mix who won last year.

Princess Abby shivered in the cool breeze after her win Friday night while nestled in the arms of her owner, Kathleen Francis, who received a $1,000 check at the 22nd annual contest held at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Petaluma.

The victory was a surprise to Francis.

"I don't think she's ugly at all," she said. "I think she's the most beautiful dog."

Francis says she adopted Princess Abby from her veterinarian about five months ago. This was the dog's first such contest since she was found running through the street.

Celebrity vet Karen "Doc" Halligan says the Chihuahua's problematic back, legs and eye may be due to being inbred.

"She's a poster child to spay and neuter your pets," she said.

Contest judges included Halligan, Vertical Horizon lead singer Matt Scannell, "That 70's Show" actress Christina Moore and fair board member Brian Sobel.

AP

Kathleen Francis, of Clearlake, Calif., holds her purebred chihuahua "Princess Abby" after winning the World's Ugliest Dog Contest Friday, June 25, 2010, in Petaluma, Calif.

TV producer challenges extradition in Mexico

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Prosecutors say lawyers for a reality TV producer accused of murdering his wife in Mexico have filed a legal challenge there to try to block his extradition.

Mexico has requested Bruce Beresford-Redman's extradition from the United States. The appeal asks a higher court to consider whether the underlying arrest warrant is valid.

Quintana Roo state prosecutor Rodolfo Garcia says the petition arrived Friday.

Beresford-Redman is charged with killing his wife, Monica, who was found in a sewer of a Cancun resort in April.

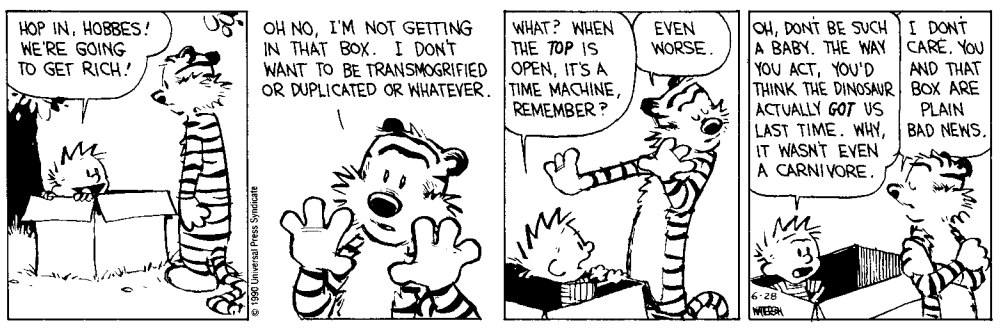
The former "Survivor" producer and co-creator of "Pimp My Ride" denies the charges.

His lawyers said Thursday that he would surrender to U.S. authorities if necessary, but he intends to fight extradition.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

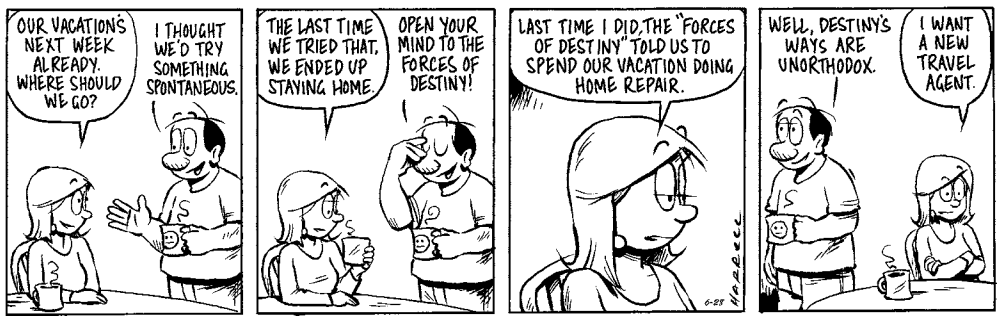

HOP IN, HOBBES! WE'RE GOING TO GET RICH!
OH NO, I'M NOT GETTING IN THAT BOX. I DON'T WANT TO BE TRANSMOGRIFIED OR DUPLICATED OR WHATEVER.
WHAT? WHEN THE TOP IS OPEN, IT'S A TIME MACHINE, REMEMBER?
EVEN WORSE.
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A BABY. THE WAY YOU ACT, YOU'D THINK THE DINOSAUR ACTUALLY GOT US LAST TIME. WHY, IT WASN'T EVEN A CARNIVORE.
I DON'T CARE. YOU AND THAT BOX ARE PLAIN BAD NEWS.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OUR VACATION'S NEXT WEEK ALREADY. WHERE SHOULD WE GO?
I THOUGHT WE'D TRY SOMETHING SPONTANEOUS.
THE LAST TIME WE TRIED THAT, WE ENDED UP STAYING HOME.
OPEN YOUR MIND TO THE FORCES OF DESTINY!
LAST TIME I DID, THE "FORCES OF DESTINY" TOLD US TO SPEND OUR VACATION DOING HOME REPAIR.
WELL, DESTINY'S WAYS ARE UNORTHODOX.
I WANT A NEW TRAVEL AGENT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

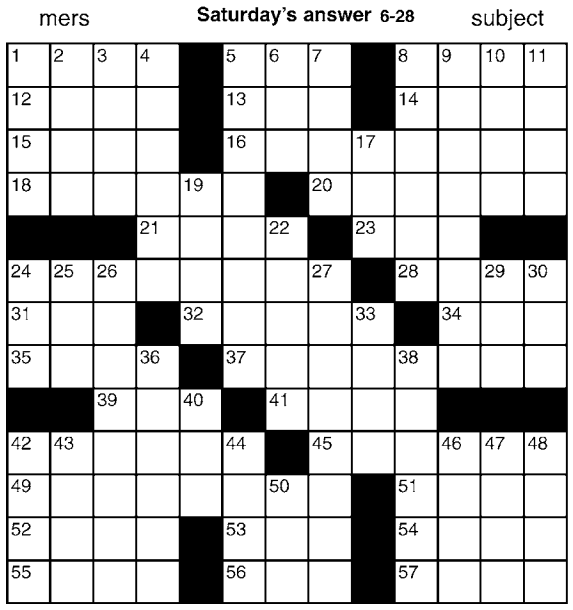
ACROSS
1 Barbershop tool
5 Alter the soundtrack
8 Poet Pound
12 Winged
13 Before
14 Midday
15 Venus de —
16 Skilled musician
18 On tiptoe ballet position
20 — shepherd
21 Soda flavor
23 N.J. neighbor
24 Mournfully, in music
28 Showroom sample
31 Altar affirmative
32 Backbone
34 Sister
35 37-Across swimmers
37 Sea of the North Atlantic
39 Drag behind
41 Tide type
42 Evening social
45 PC storage accessories
49 Starbucks request
51 Muscat's land
52 Lotion additive
53 Round Table address
54 1492 craft
55 Viscous
56 Conclude
57 Ladder rung, e.g.

DOWN
1 A summer place?
2 Hodgepodge
3 Timbuktu's land
4 Mustang
5 Evolves
6 Mentalist Geller
7 Titanic vanquisher
8 Accustomed
9 Photog's choice
10 Santa —, CA
11 In due time
17 Slugger Williams
19 Craggy peaks
22 From east of the Urals
24 Conk out
25 Praise in verse
26 Child's treat
27 Official
29 Greek consonants
30 Yoko of music
33 "Zounds!"
36 "Oklahoma!" carriage
38 Cookwear?
40 "Golly!"
42 Burn somewhat
43 Norway's capital
44 Being, to Brutus
46 Skip
47 Horse's neck hair
48 Break unexpectedly
50 Sermon subject

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	J	A	C	O	B	■	O	P	I	A	T	E
E	U	C	H	R	E	■	W	O	R	S	E	N
E	N	R	I	C	H	■	E	L	A	T	E	D
L	E	E	R	■	E	A	S	Y	■	E	N	S
■	■	■	P	I	M	P	■	P	A	R	■	■
M	A	S	■	F	O	R	D	■	D	O	M	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	D	I	O	R
M	A	I	N	■	H	O	M	E	■	D	N	A
■	■	L	A	D	■	R	A	G	S	■	■	■
O	V	A	■	A	M	I	S	■	I	N	C	A
G	E	N	E	V	A	■	C	O	L	O	R	S
R	A	K	E	I	N	■	U	P	K	E	E	P
E	L	A	N	D	S	■	S	T	Y	L	E	■

Saturday's answer 6-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Burton, 40; John Cusack, 44; Kathy Bates, 62; Mel Brooks, 84

Happy Birthday: You have to overcome any setbacks you face at work and at home. Added responsibilities are likely to infringe on your freedom but, in handling whatever comes your way, you will cultivate greater knowledge and experience to do something you've always wanted to do. Partnerships will be difficult but workable. Your numbers are 6, 11, 16, 24, 28, 36, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do whatever it takes to mellow everyone out around you. The less commotion, the easier it will be to accomplish your own goals. If necessary, isolate yourself so you can focus on what's important. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make sure that what you are working at, you enjoy. It's fine to do something labor-intensive if it will help you meet your financial needs, but you also have to do things that bring you satisfaction and perhaps a little extra cash. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Memories will play a major role in your day. Your past experience will help you find answers to pressing decisions, allowing you to keep moving forward. Revive old ideas with an updated appeal. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Paying and collecting debts will help you realize where you stand financially and how you can improve your current situation. Being pragmatic as well as innovative will be required to avoid loss. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Love is apparent but getting involved when you shouldn't or with someone who is off-limits will lead to disaster. Don't follow your heart when it's important to be practical. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stop the world for a moment and relax. You need to rejuvenate and recap what's happened in order to proceed in the best possible direction. There is money to be made but you may have to give something up. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get out with friends or do something that will make you feel, look or do better. An emotional relationship can be good or bad, depending on how you handle your partner. If you are fun to be with, you will overcome negativity. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You cannot view obstacles as a dead end when you should be using them to come up with viable solutions to further your interests. These setbacks will allow you to find fresher, more efficient ways to express what you are trying to do. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's the comfort and stability you bring to your surroundings that will make you feel good about your life and bring you greater security in the future. Love is on the rise, so don't miss out on an opportunity to express your feelings. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be left out in the cold when there is so much to keep up with in order to remain financially sound and successful. Find a second income or practical way to invest or live more economically and you will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have a lot to do if you want to reach the goals you have set. Share your thoughts and you will find out that you have a much greater support system in place than you realize. Prepare to work hard and to bring peace and order to your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Making some changes to the way you live, the way you think or the way you look will all be positive. Partnerships may be enticing but, whether it's business or personal, lay down ground rules. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are soft, tender and compassionate. You are a lover and will fight for what you want. You are changeable and adaptable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	5			1			7	4
		1	4			8		
			6	9	2			
		5				2	1	
1		4	2		6	3		7
	9	2				6		
			5	8	4			
		3			1	5		
5	1			6			2	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	6	7	8	3	4	9	1
1	3	7	4	6	9	5	2	8
9	4	8	1	5	2	3	6	7
4	9	5	6	7	1	2	8	3
8	6	2	3	9	5	1	7	4
7	1	3	8	2	4	9	5	6
3	7	9	5	4	6	8	1	2
6	2	1	9	3	8	7	4	5
5	8	4	2	1	7	6	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP IN SOUTH AFRICA **Solution: 12 letters**

C	H	A	E	R	O	K	L	A	G	U	T	R	O	P
N	O	O	R	E	M	A	C	E	C	N	A	R	F	A
I	N	T	C	G	C	B	R	A	Z	I	L	S	G	R
G	D	A	E	I	E	E	Y	L	A	T	I	D	A	A
E	U	N	P	D	X	N	E	(D)	(A)	(E)	(L)	N	M	G
R	R	S	A	A	I	E	T	R	J	D	S	A	E	U
I	A	L	E	L	J	V	M	I	G	S	C	L	S	A
A	S	O	L	R	R	N	O	A	N	T	H	R	L	Y
K	G	V	I	O	B	E	I	I	E	A	E	E	O	A
R	E	E	H	H	N	I	Z	A	R	T	D	H	V	U
A	R	N	C	G	A	N	A	T	P	E	U	T	A	G
M	M	I	L	A	O	G	N	E	I	S	L	E	K	U
N	A	A	D	N	A	L	A	E	Z	W	E	N	I	R
E	N	S	B	U	A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A	U
D	Y	G	H	A	N	A	L	G	E	R	I	A	R	G

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Last Saturday's Answer: Priorities

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Knee, deficit, umpire flap don't derail Nadal

Rafael Nadal of Spain returns to Philipp Petzschner of Germany during their men's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Saturday, June 26, 2010.

AP

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Things got quite complicated for Rafael Nadal on Saturday.

His right knee was bothering him "a lot," something he later would say he's "a little bit scared about." His left elbow was briefly in pain, too, following one serve.

He got into a dispute with the chair umpire over whether Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle, was coaching during the match, which is against the rules.

Oh, and then there was this issue, of most immediate concern Saturday: For the second consecutive round at Wimbledon, Nadal fell behind by two sets to one.

For the second consecutive round, though, the generally indefatigable Nadal came back and came through, this time pulling out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3 victory over 33rd-seeded Philipp Petzschner of Germany to reach the second week.

"This match was very difficult for me," Nadal acknowledged. "Having a five-set match two days ago and one today—that's tough. I'm happy to be in the fourth round. I'm going to try to be better for Monday."

That's when the grass-court Grand Slam tournament will resume after observing its traditional day of rest on the middle Sunday, all 32 players still in the event will be on the jam-packed schedule.

Nadal will meet 66th-ranked Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, who beat Thiemo de Bakker of the Netherlands 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6), 6-7 (8), 6-4. In his previous outing, de Bakker eliminated John Isner, the 6-foot-9 American who won the longest match in tennis history, 70-68 in the fifth set.

Isner was still in town Saturday morning, having breakfast in Wimbledon village with doubles partner and pal Sam Querrey. Hours later, as darkness descended, No. 18 Querrey won his own lengthy - well, not THAT lengthy, of course—match, reaching Wimbledon's fourth round for the first time by defeating 2002 semifinalist Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2, 5-7, 9-7. The final point was played at 9:23 p.m., and Querrey figured the match would have been suspended and continued Monday if he hadn't won when he did.

Next up for Querrey, a 22-year-old from Santa Monica, Calif., is a Centre Court contest against No. 4 Andy Murray, trying to become Britain's first Wimbledon men's champion since Fred Perry in 1936.

"I think it'll be 99 percent for Murray," Querrey said, "and, like, my mom and dad and sister cheering for me."

Murray, who hasn't dropped a set so far, beat No. 26 Gilles Simon of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 Saturday.

Other fourth-round men's matches Monday will include two-time French Open runner-up Robin Soderling of Sweden vs. No. 9 David Ferrer of Spain, and No. 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga vs. No. 32 Julien Benneteau in an all-French pairing.

Neither of those is nearly as intriguing as the women's matchup between 12-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams and three-time major winner Maria Sharapova. It's a rematch of the 2004 Wimbledon final, which Sharapova won, but Williams leads their career series 5-2.

"I love going on the court and playing someone that's obviously the favorite," Sharapova said.

She struggled at the start of her 7-5, 6-3 victory over 68th-ranked Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic. Defending champion Williams, in contrast, overwhelmed 46th-ranked Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia at the outset of what would become a 6-0, 7-5 victory. Williams hit 19 aces and afterward declared: "For the most part my serve works when I'm in trouble. At Wimbledon it works the whole match."

Other women's fourth-round matchups include No. 3 Caroline Wozniacki vs. Petra Kvitova; No. 7 Agnieszka Radwanska vs. No. 9 Li Na; and qualifier Kaia Kanepi vs. Klara Zakopalova.

None of the day's developments, however, was as significant as what happened while Nadal faced Petzschner, who lost in the first round at both of the year's first two major tournaments.

Nadal has won seven Grand Slam titles, including at the French Open this month, and never before has he won two five-setters en route to a major's fourth round. But the Spaniard went the distance against 151st-ranked Robin Haase of the Netherlands on Thursday, then did so again Saturday.

At four separate changeovers, Nadal was visited by a trainer, who mostly worked on the player's right knee. Tendinitis in both knees forced Nadal to pull out of Wimbledon a year ago instead of defending his 2008 title, and he disclosed for the first time Saturday that he's been dealing with knee issues this season.

Nadal said he received "new treatment" that helped his left knee after winning a clay-court title at Monte Carlo in April, but did not have time to get the same work done on the right side. Asked to describe the treatment, he said, "I can't explain (it) now, especially in English. Sorry."

He'll skip Spain's Davis Cup quarterfinal against France on July 9-11 so the same procedure can be carried out on his right knee, because he wants to be healthy in August for the U.S. Open, the only major title missing from his resume.

As for how the knee might effect him at Wimbledon, Nadal said: "I hope I'll be fine. I don't know. I'm going to check."

The left-hander was worried momentarily when he felt something in that elbow, but said that went away quickly and declared, "The arm is perfect."

Petzschner, playing his third five-setter in a row, sought help from a trainer for a recurring hip problem and faded late. He wondered aloud about how much medical help Nadal really needed Saturday, saying there didn't appear to be a difference in the No. 1-ranked man's movement before and after the trainer's visits.

"I only could say if I would be injured like this once, I would be happy. I don't know; maybe he had something. Maybe it was just ... clever ... to take a timeout there."

Nadal denied there was gamesmanship involved.

"I never call the physio when I don't have (anything wrong)—not one time in my career," he said. "If I (called) the physio today, it was because it was bothering me a lot, the knee."

Chair umpire Cedric Mourier warned Nadal during the fifth set about getting in-match coaching from his uncle, seated in the front row of the player guest box. Rafael Nadal pointed angrily at the umpire, spread his arms wide and shouted at him before returning to action.

Both Nadals said there was no coaching going on.

Instead, Toni Nadal explained, he was telling his nephew to stay positive.

"Nothing else," Toni Nadal said.

If anything, the admonishment from Mourier appeared to spur on the younger Nadal, who reeled off the final three games of the match. After starting only 1 for 11 on break points, he went 3 for 3 down the stretch—and in sports, of course, all's well that ends well.

"Very difficult," Toni Nadal said, echoing his charge's phrase. "But at least Rafael won the match. So all is OK."

Brian Shaw in Cavs' coaching mix

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers' search for a new coach may rest in the bejeweled hands of Phil Jackson.

The Lord of NBA championship rings, Jackson, who just won his 11th title with the Los Angeles Lakers, said earlier this week that he is leaning toward retirement but that he won't have a final decision until next week—at the earliest—about returning.

Jackson's uncertainty not only effects the newly crowned champs but also impacts the Cavs, who are looking for a coach and have spoken to a number of candidates, including Lakers assistant Brian Shaw and former New Orleans Hornets coach Byron Scott.

The Cavs were granted permission earlier this week to speak with Shaw, who has been on Jackson's staff for five seasons. Cleveland has had preliminary discussions with the 43-year-old Shaw and plan to bring him in next week to meet with owner Dan Gilbert and front-office officials.

Shaw is regarded a rising star inside the league's coaching circle, and is believed to be Jackson's favorite to succeed him if the Zen Master steps aside. Shaw won three championships as a player before retiring in 2003 and taking over as the Lakers' scouting director.

Following Thursday's draft, Cavs general manager Chris Grant said the team would not rush to hire a coach before July 1 when free agency opens and megastar LeBron James hits the market.

"We're talking to a lot of people," said Grant, who has been on the job for less than a month since replacing Danny Ferry. "We have a plan and we have a process we're going through. We've talked about winning, communication, leadership, a defensive focus. Everyone is aware of what we're looking for. As we move through the process those things become clearer for us.

"As we get closer, the field will narrow itself down and we'll make a decision."

The Cavs can't mess this up.

With James' future unclear, they want to make sure they make the correct hire.

Scott's preference—and wouldn't it be anyone's—is to replace Jackson in Tinseltown. But he's intrigued about the possibility of coaching James. It's not known how long the Cavs are willing to wait on Scott, who would appear to be their front-runner.

The Cavs are impressed with Scott's pedigree—seven NBA finals appearances as a player and coach—and his past success handling star players like Chris Paul and Jason Kidd. Beyond that, he was teammates with both Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant and can therefore appreciate the challenges for a team with a talent such as James, assuming that is, that the two-time MVP stays in Cleveland.

Scott has had at least two conversations with the Cavs about replacing Mike Brown, who was fired in May despite leading them to the league's best record the last two seasons and past the first round of the playoffs in each of his five seasons in Cleveland.

Shaw's entry into the mix gives the Cavs another option if Scott's heart is set on pursuing his dream job in L.A., if Jackson retires.

The Cavs have already been rejected once. Last week, Michigan State's Tom Izzo turned down a reported $30 million offer, electing to stay in school rather than coach the Cavaliers, who couldn't guarantee him that he would have James on his roster. Izzo said James' situation played a big part in his decision.

Grant has also had talks with former Atlanta coach Mike Woodson and Milwaukee assistant Kelvin Sampson, but they are both believed to be below Scott and Shaw on Cleveland's wish list.

Source: Thorn leaving Nets as president-GM

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Rod Thorn is stepping down as president and general manager of the New Jersey Nets.

A person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Saturday that the 69-year-old Thorn will resign next month. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not authorized public comment.

Thorn would not confirm the move Saturday in a text message to the AP. It remains unclear whether he will remain with the team in another capacity.

The person said possible candidates to replace Thorn included Oklahoma City GM Sam Presti, New Orleans GM Jeff Bower and Nets vice president Bobby Marks.

Thorn is not being forced out by new owner Mikhail Prokhorov, who wants him to stay on. The Russian billionaire recently chose not to renew the contract of general manager Kiki Vandeweghe. He then gave Thorn the dual job of president and general manager, a new contract and the task of rebuilding a team that won a franchise low 12 games last season.

Thorn has had the contract for two weeks and not signed it.

Price earns 11th win, Rays beat Diamondbacks, 5-3

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—David Price pitched eight strong innings to become the American League's first 11-game winner as Tampa Bay bounced back from Edwin Jackson's no-hitter to beat Arizona.

Sean Rodriguez and Jason Bartlett both had two RBIs for the Rays, held hitless Friday night for the third time in the past 12 months. Price (11-3) allowed two runs and seven hits while walking one and matching his career high with 11 strikeouts.

Rodriguez keyed a three-run sixth that made it 4-1 by driving in a pair with a single off reliever Sam Demel. Carlos Pena added an RBI grounder.

White Sox 3, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit his 19th home run to snap an eighth-inning deadlock as the Chicago White Sox won their 11th straight game by beating the struggling Chicago Cubs.

The White Sox are on their longest win streak since a 12-game run in June 1961, and they can thank Konerko for keeping it going. He broke a 2-all tie with one out in the eighth when he connected off reliever Andrew Cashner (0-1), sending the White Sox to their 15th victory in 16 games.

The Cubs got another good start from Carlos Silva and a homer from Aramis Ramirez, but lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Angels 4, Rockies 2

At Anaheim, California, Hideki Matsui hit a grand slam in the first inning and Joe Saunders (6-8) struck out a season-high eight batters in seven innings as the Los Angeles Angels downed Colorado.

Relievers Fernando Rodney and Brian Fuentes combined with him to allow just one hit and one walk in the final four innings.

Athletics 5, Pirates 0

At Oakland, California, Trevor Cahill allowed two hits and struck out 10 batters in 7 2-3 innings, and Daric Barton had three doubles to match his career high with four RBIs as Oakland blanked Pittsburgh.

Cahill (7-2) walked three and struck out a career-high 10 as the A's won two in a row for the first time since winning four straight May 26-29.

Kurt Suzuki homered as the A's remained unbeaten in eight games against the Pirates.

Red Sox 4, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Mike Cameron hit a three-run homer and Darnell McDonald also connected as Boston beat San Francisco and its top pitching prospect.

Scott Atchison (1-1) tossed 2 1-3 innings against his former team after Red Sox starter Clay Buchholz was removed early because of a hyperextended left knee that he hurt while running the bases.

Along with his first home run in a season that featured more than a month on the disabled list, Cameron crashed into the wall to make a great catch of Pablo Sandoval's fly to end the eighth.

Jonathan Papelbon worked a perfect ninth for his 17th save in 20 chances.

Buster Posey drove in both Giants runs.

Dodgers 9, Yankees 4

At Los Angeles, James Loney drove in four runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers became the latest team to knock around struggling New York Yankees starter A.J. Burnett.

Burnett (6-7) had his shortest outing of the season. The right-hander gave up six runs, six hits and six walks in three-plus innings, falling to 0-5 with an 11.35 ERA in his last five starts.

Mark Teixeira hit an early three-run homer for New York, but the Dodgers rallied from deficits of 3-0 in the first and 4-2 in the third.

Rangers 7, Astros 2

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler ended a career-long 32-game homerless drought with a tiebreaking shot as Texas rebounded from its first loss in two weeks to beat Houston.

Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton extended his hitting streak to 20 games with a single in the sixth inning.

Kinsler's three-run homer off Josh Banks (0-1) in the fourth snapped a 2-all tie. It was only his second homer of the season and first since May 18, the day after manager Ron Washington moved Kinsler to the No. 3 spot in the batting order and dropped Hamilton to fifth.

Braves 4, Tigers 3

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones' three-run homer in the seventh gave Kenshin Kawakami his long-awaited first win of the season, but only after Atlanta escaped a ninth-inning jam.

Peter Moylan struck out pinch-hitter Johnny Damon with the bases loaded to end it, and Kawakami needed Jones' help to avoid the first 0-10 start by a Braves pitcher. The right-hander trailed 1-0 when he left for a pinch-hitter in the seventh.

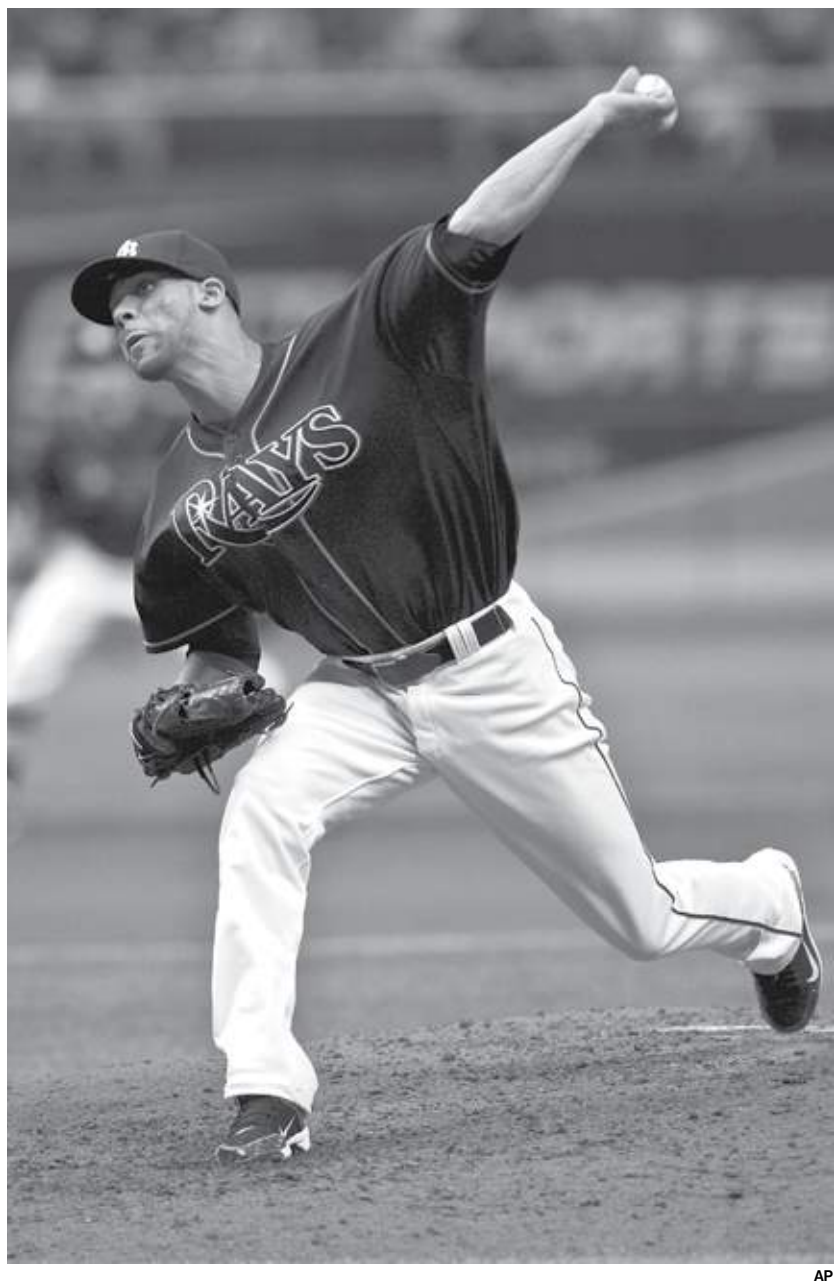
Jones' homer off Joel Zumaya (2-1) later in the inning landed about 10 rows deep in the center-field seats and drove in Gregor Blanco and Melky Cabrera, who walked.

Twins 6, Mets 0

At New York, Jason Kubel and Minnesota roughed up former teammate Johan Santana early, and Carl Pavano produced another fine pitching performance in a win over the New York Mets.

Pavano (9-6) gave up three hits in his second consecutive complete game, both of which have come against an NL East ace. The well-traveled right-hander tossed a four-hitter Sunday to beat Roy Halladay and the NL champion Phillies 4-1.

Pavano had two hits and a sacrifice at the plate for Minnesota, which ended a four-game skid. The Twins began the day a half-game up on Detroit in the AL Central.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays starter David Price pitches against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the second inning of a baseball game Saturday, June 26, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Reds 6, Indians 4

At Cincinnati, Laynce Nix singled home the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning and came around to score on a jarring dive into home, rallying first-place Cincinnati past free-falling Cleveland for its fifth straight win.

Nix's single off Justin Masterson (2-7) was the turning point in a ragged game on a hot, humid night.

Cleveland has lost a season-high seven in a row and 11 of 12, falling a season-low 21 games under .500.

The Reds' surge has moved them back into first place in the NL Central, a half-game ahead of St. Louis. They haven't been in first so late in a season since 1999, the last time they made a serious run at the playoffs.

Cardinals 5, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Colby Rasmus and Skip Schumaker homered off Kyle Davies as St. Louis beat Kansas City.

Blake Hawksworth (2-4), making his second major league start, went five-plus innings for the win, allowing two runs and two hits.

Ryan Franklin got four outs for his 15th save in 16 opportunities. Cardinals reliever Jason Motte left the game in the seventh with a cramp in his right calf and is day to day.

Blue Jays 5, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, John Buck, Aaron Hill and Alex Gonzalez homered, and Shaun Marcum (7-3) pitched six solid innings as Toronto downed Philadelphia.

Marcum allowed one run and five hits while striking out six and walking one. The right-hander improved to 7-1 in nine starts following a Blue Jays defeat, the latest victory coming on the heels of Friday night's 9-0 loss to the Phillies and former Toronto ace Roy Halladay.

Ryan Howard homered for the Phillies, who had won four straight and scored 28 runs in their previous three games. The Blue Jays had lost four of five.

Orioles 6, Nationals 5

At Baltimore, Adam Jones homered and Matt Wieters had three hits and two RBIs as Baltimore rallied to beat Washington and clinch their first series win in 14 attempts.

Baltimore scored the game's last six runs after falling behind 5-0 in the fourth inning. Less than 24 hours earlier, the Orioles came back from a six-run deficit to win.

Baltimore had lost 11 straight series and was 0-12-1 since taking two of three from Seattle on May 11-13.

Mariners 5, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Seattle reliever Brian Sweeney pitched four scoreless innings in his first appearance since 2006, and Milton Bradley and Jose Lopez homered as Seattle edged Milwaukee.

Milwaukee's season-long five-game winning streak ended despite a four-run third that included Prince Fielder's 15th homer and a wild play that saw Corey Hart coming around to score on an error after hitting a double.

Sweeney (1-0) had been recalled from Triple-A Tacoma on June 15 and made his first appearance since playing with San Diego after Doug Fister went four innings in his return from the disabled list. Fister gave up four runs and five hits and threw 92 pitches.

Padres 2, Marlins 1

At Miami, Adrian Gonzalez hit an RBI double as San Diego became the first team in nearly two months to score more than once against Florida ace Josh Johnson.

Jon Garland (8-5) pitched into the seventh inning and hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fifth after a triple by Jerry Hairston Jr. The National League West-leading Padres (44-30) moved 14 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2007 season.

Heath Bell worked the ninth for his 21st save in 24 chances, helped by a sparkling sliding catch by center fielder Tony Gwynn Jr.

Rose takes 3-stroke lead at Travelers

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Justin Rose closed in on his second straight PGA Tour victory Saturday, shooting a 2-under 68 to take a three-stroke lead over Ben Curtis into the final round of the Travelers Championship.

Rose, the 29-year-old Englishman who won the Memorial three weeks ago but then failed to qualify for the U.S. Open, had a 16-under 194 total at TPC River Highlands after setting the tournament 36-hole record with rounds of 64 and 62.

"It was just a day when nothing went in on the greens at all," said Rose, a stroke off the best 54-hole total in tournament history. "The tale of the day was that I made nothing on the greens. The longest putt I made was 4 feet, 10 inches for par on 17.

"So, I'm really happy to have a day like that on the greens and still shoot 68 and still maintain my lead."

Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, shot a 64. Vaughn Taylor (67) was 11 under, and Ricky Barnes (64), Scott McCarron (66), Brendon de Jonge (67), Bubba Watson (67), Matt Jones (68), Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin (69) and Bill Lunde (69) were 10 under.

Charlie Wi cut Rose's lead—four strokes after the first two days—to two early in the round, but that was as close as Wi or anyone else could get.

Rose birdied Nos. 5 and 6 to open a six-stroke lead before Curtis—seven strokes back at the start of the round—pulled within three with five back-nine birdies.

"I thought the start was key for me today," Rose said. "I hit a lot of good shots early in my round. Birdies at 5 and 6 really felt like it got the round going and brought me back into the comfort zone."

Rose drove into the water on the 13th hole en route to his first bogey in 37 holes.

"I had only one real bad swing—on the tee on 13," Rose said. "There was a little bit of wait there. It was just a bit of a slack tee shot, I suppose. After that, I played really well. I bounced back well from the only bogey of the day."

Curtis's big regret was that he didn't play the front nine as well as he did the back. His had eight pars and a birdie on the opening nine.

"I got off to a slower start today than I maybe wanted to," Curtis said. "I just stayed patient and tried to keep hitting the greens and tried to make the putts and luckily, on the last nine holes, they kind of started going in."

Rose's birdie on 15 stretched his lead back to three.

"I just got to keep playing aggressive when I need to and just keep hitting the greens and picking the right club," Curtis said. "You know, it's one of those weeks when if you shoot par, you're going to go backward."

Nationals, Mobil draw first blood in fundraiser tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Basketball Team blew out the Sparks, 78-41, in the second game of Saturday night's kick off weekend for the CNMI National Team's Fundraiser Basketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Nationals along with Mobil, which won the first game played earlier in the evening, advanced to the winners bracket of the three-weekend long double-elimination tourney.

Dan Barcinas led the way for the Nationals with 21 points and received mixed support from teammates, Quincy Johnson, Jack Lizama, Pedro Igiel, and Keoni Chariton who added 12, 10, 10, and 9 points, respectively.

John Norita and Thomas Santos for the Spark gave it their all with 14 and 10 points, but could not find enough help from the rest of their squad.

The Nationals controlled the tempo of the game from the tip off and successfully protected their possession of the ball. They spread the ball around and found a lot of close looks at the hoop.

They also executed a collaborated defensive effort and just made far fewer mistakes on both ends of the court. After building a comfortable lead, the Nationals made some sloppy fouls away from the basket, but they also created more than enough turnovers to make up for it.

The Nationals' 37-point win margin was a statement to the rest of the competition that teams have to bring it on if they are going to upset the CNMI's finest.

Mobil 72, Team Elite 67

In the first game, the more experienced Mobil, who has a history of playing together as a unit, fended off the young and physical players from Team Elite and advanced into the winners bracket of the tourney.

Elmer Esdrelon, Jhun Estolas, and Marvin Rabauliman led the way for Mobil with 16, 13, and 13 points, respectively.

High scorer for Team Elite was Dave Sablan who scattered 18 points in the game and received support from teammates Kelvin Fitial and Melvin Maibusan who added 13 and 11 points.

Two games were played Sunday evening and the next two pairings of competition will take place for the next two weeks, weather permitting, on Saturday and Sunday evenings starting at 6:30pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

First Game

Nationas 78 – Barcinas 21, Johnson 12, Lizama 10, Iguel 10, Chariton 9, Lee 5, Palacios 4, Villacrusis 4, Tumaquip 2, Naraja 1.

Sparks 41 – Joh. Norita 14, Santos 10, Babauta 6, Jo. Norita 4, Manglona 3, Santos 2, Babauta 2.

Second Game

Mobil 72 –Esdrelon 16, Estolas 13, Rabauliman 13, Ruluked 9, Muleta 7, Gapor 6, Berline 4, De Guzman 2, Pagarao 2.

Team Elite 67 –Sablan 18, Fitial 13, Manibusan 11, Norita 7, Coldeen 6, Lizama 4, Talalemotu 4, Fitial 2, Omengebar 2.

SONICS

From Page 28

Additionally, in Game 2, the Sonics as a team successfully outfought the Rollers down low for the boards. Since these were the only two teams in the division, it did not take long for the Sonics to learn that their key to victory was forcing the rest of the Rollers to beat them and take the young giant out of the game.

Much like all of their other pairings, Game 2 started out very close, but eventually the Sonics' feisty full court press outmaneuvered the Rollers and when the Sonics were fouled late in the game to stop the clock, they converted the free throws.

After the game during the UBA awards presentation, Aranda was selected as the most valuable player for the championship. Talalemotu was awarded the MVP plum for the regular season.

Sonics 53, Hi-5 45

In Friday night's second game, the Sonics dominated Hi-5 in a one-sided contest in the 18-and-under division that was all but over with 10 minutes left on the clock.

The Sonics bench even stepped up and outperformed Hi-5, which right now looks like a team that is still trying to figure out who their role players are going to be. The same five players stayed on the court for virtually the entire game and the whole team as a unit struggled to find any type of rhythm.

To make matters worse, the Sonics smelled blood and attacked full force with their scrappy press. The Hi-5 ballhandlers allowed a significant amount of turnovers. Very few strategic adjustments were even attempted as the Hi-5 starters stayed on the floor and kept making the same mistakes, repeatedly.

Bryan Ajoste led the Sonics with nine first half points and Melvin Cadiang added eight more points in support.

Ezra Caro led Hi-5 with six first half points and received help from Lawrence Rollon and Ariel Urbano, who each added a couple of baskets.

Then after building an 11-point lead at the half, Ajoste and Cadiang slammed the door on Hi-5 at the start of the last period.

Soon after, the Sonics' bench came out early to relieve the starters. The fresh legs off the bench also wore out the Hi-5 starters who never really found an opportunity to find rest as they played from behind the entire game.

The Sonics' full court press was very successful in this matchup; it flustered Hi-5 and affected their confidence, resulting in a lot of steals and layups on the other end for the Sonics.

Tonight at 7:30pm, the Roller A team will face the Sixers as the regular season of the 18-and-under division continues at the Garapan Basketball Court.

First Game

Sonics 69 – Aranda 24, Salem 19, DeGuzman 9, Tudela 6, Alegre 2, Sc. Escalada 2, Sh. Escalada 2, Tadifa 2, Villanueva, Mizer 1.

Rollers 60 – Talalemotu 35, Mancao 7, Escueta 5, Dela Rosa 4, Limes 3, Hambros 2, Iglecias 2, Lansang 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-31, 69-60.

Second Game

Sonics 53 – Cadiang 15, Ajoste 14, Ecalnea 6, Jung 6, Palacios 4, Villanueva 4, Ferrer 2.

Hi-5 45 – Caro 13, Datuin 8, Calbaltica 6, Rollon 6, Urbano 6, Hemlani 4, Mizer 4.

Scoring by halves: 27-18, 53-45.

FLIPPER

From Page 28

ber of international swimmers to join our local swimmers in this event."

The swim attracted competitors from the Northern Marianas, Japan, Korea, and the U.S.

An island-style breakfast and awards ceremony was held on the beach at Managaha following the race. All age division category winners received either fins or snorkel from the major sponsors.

In the junior division, in first place for 10-and-under was Kaito Yanai of Saipan in 21:46. Winning the age category for 11-and-under was Takayumi Sugie of Japan with a time of 26:22, while the 13-15 age division went to Kaisei Toda who clocked in at 21:44.

In the 19-29 age category the first male finisher was Yusuke Kaneko of Japan with a time of 20:41. The first female, Mai Takagi of Japan, reached the finish line at 27:40. In the 30-39 age category, first place for the men was Yoshinori Yamamoto of Japan at 22:31, followed by first female Sachiko Suzuki of Japan when she entered at 26:46. First male in the 40-49 age category was Jim Arenovski in 29:19, and first female was Hitomi Karisawa of Japan with a time of 31:56. For ages 50-59, Yasushi Shimuzu of Japan topped the males with a time of 27:31, and Keiko Shimotara bested other females at 41:09. Topping the 60-and-up age category for men was Shuji Terada of Japan in 22:04 and, for females, Matsue Terada of Japan, who clocked in at 27:51.

One struggling winner from Japan was rescued by the race water safety crew and kept overnight for observation at Commonwealth Health Center before returning to Japan last June 22.

"We're very serious about the safety of our swimmers during the race," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "I commend our safety team for being alert and quick to respond."

In 2009, 53 swimmers participated in the race, which allows swimmers to use fins, snorkels, wet suits, or life jackets. ***(PR)***

URUGUAY

From Page 28

of the ball.

In driving rain, with 10 minutes remaining, Suarez struck a curling shot from the edge of the penalty area that went in off a post.

"I'm really happy because being young I always dream of these types of moments," Suarez said. "These moments we're experiencing are once in a lifetime."

Watched by former President Bill Clinton, Ghana went ahead in the fifth minute when Kevin-Prince Boateng scored. The U.S. gave away possession in midfield, and Boateng dashed clear, precisely driving a low shot past American goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Landon Donovan equalized for the U.S. with a 62nd-minute penalty, with his spotkick hitting the right post and rebounding into the net. The penalty was awarded when Clint Dempsey was brought down in a sliding challenge.

Donovan's goal was his fifth goal at World Cups, a U.S. record.

The winner came early in extra time as Gyan rode a challenge and then volleyed over the head of the onrushing Howard.

That goal made Ghana the third African team to make it to the last eight of a World Cup after Cameroon in 1990 and Senegal in 2002.

"We've made everybody proud," Gyan said. "Not Ghana alone, the whole of Africa."

Second-round matches continue Sunday when old rivals Germany and England clash in Bloemfontein and Argentina meets Mexico in Johannesburg—a reprise of their round-of-16 match in 2006.

The South African police officer in charge of security at the Germany-England match has promised a "no nonsense" approach to crowd trouble and said that relaxed alcohol laws could make his job harder.

Lt. Gen. Amon Mashigo said riot police, water cannons and helicopters will be on standby for the World Cup second round match Sunday and the army could also be mobilized.

"We will be seizing control of the whole city as of tonight (Saturday)," Mashigo told The Associated Press. "To sum it up, it's a no nonsense approach. Definitely, nobody will dare do anything stupid."

England coach Fabio Capello said Wayne Rooney had looked very good in training ahead of the meeting with the Germans at the Free State Stadium and hoped he would carry that into the game.

"Rooney has trained very well, shot very well at goal and scored a lot of goals (in training), the Italian told reporters. "We hope tomorrow he will be the same."

Germany coach Joachim Loew skipped the news conference on the eve of the clash with England.

Loew's team trained at a university ground Saturday because FIFA did not allow either team to train at the Free State Stadium to preserve the pitch.

FIFA is watching the fallout in France over the team's failure to progress out of the group stage and said it won't hesitate to suspend the national federation if it discovers government interference in the running of the sport.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has vowed to personally investigate the French team's disastrous World Cup campaign and met with other officials this week to discuss ways to reform French football.

France was eliminated from the first round after a tournament in which the players went on strike, failed to win a match and had striker Nicolas Anelka thrown off the squad for insulting the coach.

FIFA also acknowledged problems with the Jabulani ball being used at the tournament, but nothing will be done until after the tournament.

Many players have likened the Jabulani to a "supermarket ball," saying it is too unpredictable and flies through the air too easily. Suarez, however, showed complete control of the ball to score one of the best goals of the tournament in driving rain.

Brazil will meet Chile in the round of 16, while Portugal will face Iberian neighbor Spain. The other matchups over the next few days are Netherlands-Slovakia and Paraguay-Japan.

Argentina coach Diego Maradona, who was derided for his tactics during the qualifiers, is ready for his critics to stand up and hang their heads in shame after three wins at the World Cup.

"Many journalists should apologize to the players," Maradona said. "I'm not suggesting you drop your trousers, but it would be honest and great so we all get along better."

SLAMMERS

From Page 28

an o-kon (overtime). Turruk' Mak'tao did neither of them, as the Slammers cruised to a 22-9 triumph to complete the Game 1 sweep.

Rosario paced the Slammers in Game 1 with his 22 points, making eight kees, three aces, two xunks, and two goals.

In Game 2, Turruk' Mak'tao quickly dictated the tempo of the match behind Ben Lisua's three goals for a 21-10 triumph in the first set.

The second ser was a close match with the Slammers this time pulling off a 21-17 victory. The Slammers made it two in a row when they nailed a 24-17 victory in the extended third set. Turruk' Mak'tao controlled the third set before successive aces from Nekaifes lifted the Slammers to a win.

After three sets, the game was tied, 55-all, and either team can post a juice-out win by prevailing in the fourth and last set. Nekaifes made a goal and two kees in the deciding set, powering the Slammers to a 76-72 win and a game away from clinching the championship. Nekaifes led Slammers' Game 2 win, firing 18 points on two goals, four kees, and four aces.

With the title slowly slipping away from its hands, Turruk' Mak'tao showed determination in extending the series when in battled Slammers neck-and-neck in the opening set of Game 3. However, the Slammers showed some gutsy plays in the closing stage of the first set to eke out a 24-23 win, their closest victory in the series.

The second set was another nip-and-tuck match, but this time it was Turruk' Mak'tao which showed poise in the end to post a 23-19 win.

In the third set, Rosario connected on his third goal in the series and sparked the Slammers' run for a 20-14 win, moving the eventual champions a set away from wrapping up the series.

In the fourth set, both Turruk' Mak'tao and Slammers slowed it down, as fatigue had started to take its toll on them after playing for more than two hours. Both teams were already dragging their feet to chase the ball and set-up jobs for kees were occasionally seen. A spike near the net from Saito off a Nekaifes feed ended the series, as Joemil Lisua struggled to hit the ball back at the left sideline and failed.

Rosario top-scored for the Slammers in Game 3, hitting 15 markers on four kees, two aces, and a goal.

Besides the Slammers and Turruk' Mak'tao, OPP also joined the weekend fundraiser, which will have its proceeds donated to Gechig and Nekaifes. Gechig and Nekaifes are hoping to join the CNMI Athletics Team to the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

Weekend Sports

CNMI strikers, sluggers put on show

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas' premier football and baseball players gave their best shot in two majors tournaments held last week.

The CNMI men's and women's teams slugged it out with their Guam counterparts in the 4th Annual Marianas Football Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex, while All-Star Teams from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota competed for Asia Pacific slots during the 2010 CNMI District Tournament in Tinian.

The CNMI Men's National Team dueled a selection from Guam and almost pulled off a win when it led, 1-0, off a Joe Miller goal in the 68th minute. Guam's Jayson Cunliffe then found the back of the net in the 89th minute, forcing a 1-1 draw and leaving the CNMI and Guam sharing the Marianas Cup trophy.

In the women's division, CNMI female strikers held Guam to a scoreless first half before the latter's Rhoda Bamba made a goal in the second half en route to a 1-0 win.

Over at the Tinian Municipal Field, Saipan All-Stars dominated the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament qualifier.

The Saipan Major All-Stars defeated Tinian in the finals, 4-1. In the Junior League, Saipan whipped Rota, 11-1, while Saipan also had an easy time against the same foe in the Senior League finals, 17-2. In the Big League, Saipan completed a 3-0 win over Rota when the former's Big Leaguers won, 4-3.

Back on Saipan for the Art Of War 5, Trech Tech fighters clinched five of the seven gold medals at stake in the No Gi grappling and submission challenge held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Winning the gold medals for Trench Tech were "Badd" Brad Palacios (featherweight), Shane Alvarez (super lightweight), Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (lightweight), Jose Mafnas (middleweight) and Ricki Rout (welterweight).

In other events, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger topped the 17th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run after timing in at 25:54 and 26:06 in the 4.2-mile race, while Guam's Barrigada Crusaders swept the 2010 Rollers Basketball Club Invitational. Barricada won the U17 and U15 finals against the Sonics and the U12 against the Rollers.

Other basketball leagues on Saipan continued with Ol'Aces, 670, and the CNMI Nationals posting wins in Week 2 of the Budweiser caging, and Palms Resort, Mythical Five, and Taga Security prevailing in their respective games in the Miller Lite caging.

The biggest winner in last week's caging were the Sonics, who beat Rollers in the championship series of the U15 division of the UBA youth caging.

The week ended with CNMI's delegation to the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau receiving a bit of good news when lawmakers through House Local Bill House Local Bill 17-22 made additional re-appropriation of $20,000 for the team's campaign in the quadrennial meet. The bill now waits for the governor's signature.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
Art Of War 5 combatants pose for a group photo inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium following the competition.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
The Saipan Junior League All-Stars flash the No. 1 sign after whipping Rota, 11-1, in the 2010 CNMI District Tournament on Tinian last week.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
The Saipan Major League All-Stars pose for a group photo after beating Tinian, 4-1, in the 2010 CNMI District Tournament on Tinian last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Reyn Johnson, center, in action against two CNMI defenders during their game in the 4th Annual Marianas Football Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Katie Peters, left, tries to move away from the defense of Guam's Simone Willter, center, while teammate Lindsay Davis looks on during the first half of their game in the 4th Annual Marianas Football Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Chris Mizer, right, tries to dribble his way out of a Rollers defender during Game 1 of their U15 title series in the UBA youth caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bud Light Lime's Ol'Aces pulls up for a shot against two O'Doul's Runnin' Rebels defenders during their game in the Budweiser caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sonics sweep U15 championship

WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Sonics celebrate after sweeping the Rollers in the best-of-three championship series for the Unified Basketball Association's 15-and-under division played Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After taking Game 1 of the best-of-three finals series for the Unified Basketball Association's 15-and-under division, the Sonics came out strong in the second half of last Friday night's Game 2 to soundly defeat the Rollers, 69-60, and complete a sweep of the championship.

Jack Aranda made the Garapan Basketball Court his personal playground early, scoring 12 points in the first half. The Sonics gunner also received some valued support from teammate Jaymark DeGuzman.

Rollers center Savali Talalemotu led the way for his squad with 16 first half points. Mike Mancao helped him out with another five points in a very close match. At halftime the score was even at 31-31.

Sonics' Nevin Salem scored four points at the end of the first half and kept it going into the second period. Salem caught fire in the last half with 15 more points that helped solidify the Sonics' dominating finish.

Talalemotu, who finished with 35 points for the game, displayed another impressive performance as he did all season long, but the Sonics keyed on him on both sides of the court and did a good job of preventing the big dog from getting the ball.

See SONICS on Page 26

Flipper tourney draws more participants

The 2010 Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament saw a small increase in numbers over last year's event, with a majority of the 65 participants traveling from Japan to the CNMI for the event.

Sixty-five swimmers took to placid waters at 6:30am last June 19 to circumnavigate Managaha Island.

University of Hawaii-Manoa Rezne Wong took the top slot in the 1.5-kilometer race at 19:07, while fellow Saipan swimmers Kensuke Kimura and Shin Kimura finished neck-and-neck at 20:16 and 20:17, respectively.

Yusuke Kaneko of Japan led a field of 40 swimmers from Japan, finishing fourth overall at 20:41. In the women's overall, winning first place was Angel Marie Tan of Saipan with a time of 23:34, followed by Kana Kurihara of Japan at 24:47, and Angel De Jesus of Saipan at 26:17. The overall Top 3 winners in the men's and women division received cash prizes of $300, $200 and $100 respectively.

"The Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament aims to capitalize on Managaha's popularity, especially in Japan," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We're happy that this year's tournament went smoothly and that we saw a small increase in the number of participants. The MVA's goal remains to attract a solid num-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 65 participants took part in the 2010 Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament held last June 19 in the waters surrounding Managaha Island.

See FLIPPER on Page 26

Uruguay, Ghana make quarters

AP

Uruguayan players celebrate their win after the World Cup Round of 16 soccer match between Uruguay and South Korea at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Saturday, June 26, 2010.

FRANK GRIFFITHS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Uruguay and Ghana will meet in the quarterfinals of the World Cup after second-round wins on Saturday while the United States and South Korea can begin packing their bags for home.

Uruguay, two-time winners of the World Cup, became the first team to advance to the last eight by beating South Korea, 2-1, thanks to a precise curling shot by Luis Suarez on a sodden Port Elizabeth pitch.

Ghana then beat the United States 2-1 after extra time in Rustenburg, with Asamoah Gyan netting the winner with a volleyed finish in the third minute of the added period.

Uruguay will take on Ghana in Johannesburg on Friday.

Suarez put Uruguay ahead early in the first half after the South Korean goalkeeper failed to cut off a pass across the penalty area.

Lee Chung-yong equalized in the 68th, with Uruguay's goalkeeper at fault, coming off his line but failing to reach the fall

See URUGUAY on Page 26

Slammers blank Turruk' Mak'tao

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Slammers' Rodney Rosario hits a low ball during the first set of Game 1 of their title series against Turruk' Mak'tao in the 2010 Let's Go to Palau Rocball Tournament on Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Slammers swept their way to the championship of the 2010 Let's Go to Palau Rocball Tournament played over the weekend at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Slammers won the best-of-five title series of the fundraiser, 3-0, despite a depleted lineup. The eventual champions had only four players on the court in John Nekaifes, J.R. Gechig, Typhoon Saito, and Rodney Rosario against Turruk' Mak'tao's five—Joemil and Ben Lisua, Jordan Igisomar, Allen Calvo, and A.J. Aguilar.

Game 1 of the championship showdown had the Slammers juicing-out and sweeping Turruk' Mak'tao in all four sets en route to an 88-42 win.

The Slammers won the opening set by 10 points, 22-10, then played event better in the second set with a 23-9 triumph. Turruk' Mak'tao played its best game in the third set, when it led, 12-3, but the Slammers recovered and still won, 22-14.

Behind 66-33, after three sets, Turruk' Mak'tao faced a daunting task of beating the Slammers by more than 33 points in the fourth set to steal the victory or win the fourth to force

See SLAMMERS on Page 26